THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

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HARDLINER EBRAHIM RAISI WINS IRAN PRESIDENCY

Iran's hard-line judiciary chief, Ebrahim Raisi, won a landslide victory on Saturday in the country's Presidential election, a vote that both propelled the supreme leader's protege into Tehran's highest civilian position and saw the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. The election of Raisi became more of a coronation after his strongest competition found themselves disqualified from running. **P11**

Businesses can open till 5 pm from Monday

Govt buses, Metro allowed to run with 50% seating

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa on Saturday announced further relaxation in Covid restrictions that will come into effect from Monday in 16 districts, which have a case positivity rate of below 5 per cent.

Bengaluru Urban, Mandya, Belagavi and Kalaburagi are among the districts that will see relaxed norms. Here, shops and offices can open till 5 pm, but with 50 per cent staff. Hotels, clubs and restaurants can have 50 per cent customers and should shut by 5 pm. They cannot serve liquor or switch on the AC. Government-run buses and Metro can run with 50 per cent seating capacity. Sports events can be held without an audience. **P4**

WHAT IS ALLOWED

Commercial establishments till 5 pm

Hotels, clubs and restaurants, with 50% capacity; However, serving liquor and using air-conditioner are prohibited

Resorts and lodges

Gyms, without AC

Buses and Metro, with 50% occupancy

CURFEW ACROSS STATE

Weekdays: Curbs will be in force from 7 pm to 5 am the following morning

Weekends: Restrictions will be in force from 7 pm on Friday to 5 am on Monday

With relaxation in curbs, travellers arrive at the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in Bengaluru on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

INTERVIEW

'PREPARE FOR THIRD WAVE ANYTIME AFTER SEPT'

Even as the number of Covid-19 cases is gradually on the decline, the second wave is not over yet, **Dr Devi Shetty**, cardiac surgeon and Founder, Chairman of Narayana Health, tells The New Sunday Express. "We should be prepared for the third wave anytime after September," he said. **P4**

VACCINE FOR CHILDREN MAY GET NOD IN 10 DAYS

Belagavi: The country's first Covid vaccine for children aged between 12 and 18 -- ZyCoV-D -- has been sent for emergency approval to the Drug Controller General of India after the clinical trials ended in all the centres in the country. DCGI is expected to give its nod in the next 8-10 days. **P4**

HIGH NUMBER OF KIDS INFECTED IN MYSURU DIST

Mysuru: There has been an alarming increase in the number of children getting infected with Covid in Mysuru district. Between June 9 and 18, 769 children below the age of 18 have tested positive. Of them, 301 are in the 0-10 year age group. Mysuru saw over 7,600 cases in the last ten days. **P4**

'THIRD WAVE IN 6-8 WEEKS IF NORMS NOT FOLLOWED'

New Delhi: If Covid-appropriate behaviour is not followed, the next wave can strike the country in the next 6-8 weeks, AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria warned on Saturday, stressing on the need for stricter surveillance and area-specific lockdowns in case of a significant surge. **P9**

Modi's trusted aide elevated as BJP's vice-president in UP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow/New Delhi

ENDING speculation on former bureaucrat **A K Sharma's** induction into the Yogi Adityanath cabinet in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP's UP unit appointed him as its vice-president on Saturday.

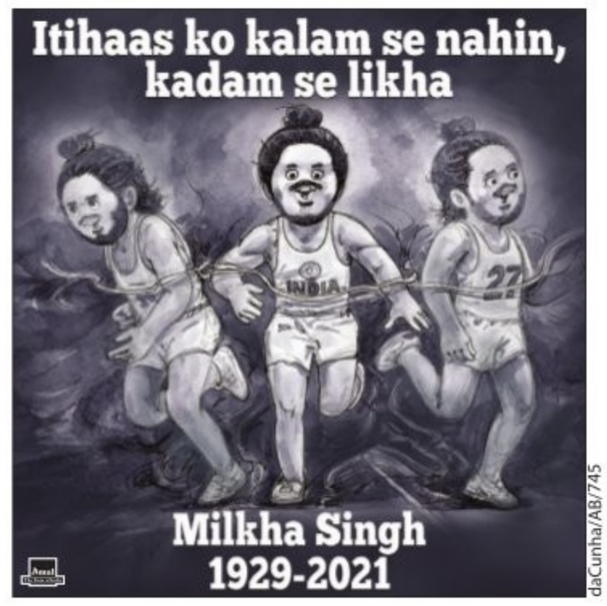
Sharma's appointment, with the crucial Assembly election just eight months away, is seen as an attempt to both bolstering the party's reach among the upper caste in eastern UP and executing the leadership's poll strategies in the state. Sharma, who joined the party five months ago and was elected as an MLC shortly afterwards, is close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He played a key role in managing the Covid situation in PM Modi's constituency Varanasi. The Varanasi Model of Covid-19 management has been appreciated by the PM on multiple occasions.

His elevation was among a flurry of organisational appointments made by party's UP unit president Swatantra Dev Singh, hours after he met BJP president J P Nadda and national general secretary B L Santhosh in New Delhi.

Sharma's appointment comes weeks after the leadership sent a two-member team, comprising Santhosh and former Union minister Radha Mohan Singh, to review party's organisational strength ahead of the crucial Assembly election. The visit was followed by Yogi landing in New Delhi to hold meetings with Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Nadda. Speculation was rife that Sharma would be given a high-ranking position in UP cabinet, a scenario Yogi was opposed to, fearing it would lead to dual power centres, sources said. A 1988-batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, Sharma is a Bhumihar Brahmin, a community with sizeable influence in eastern UP's Varanasi, Azamgarh, Ghazipur and other districts.

TOP LEADER TO VISIT LUCKNOW

With BJP keen on setting its house in order ahead of the Assembly election next year, party's national general secretary B L Santhosh would land in Lucknow for the second time this month. The June 21 and 22 visit may be precursor to more organisational rejig, sources said



NATIONWIDE	JUNE 18	JUNE 19
Fresh cases	62,480	60,753
Recoveries	88,977	97,743
Deaths	1,587	1,647

JAB-O-METER TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 18 **29,84,172 doses**

June 19 **33,00,085 doses**

TOTAL DOSES: 27,23,88,783

KARNATAKA	JUNE 18	JUNE 19
Fresh cases	5,783	5,815
Recoveries	15,290	11,832
Deaths	168	161

WITH THIS ISSUE

At Home with Covid

PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

EXPRES READ

Induction of Rafale into IAF by 2022, says chief

Hyderabad: Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria on Saturday said that the induction of 36 Rafale aircraft into the Indian Air Force would take place by 2022. The IAF is absolutely on target with respect to the Rafale induction plan, he said, while responding to a reporter's query here, on the timeline for receiving all the 36 fighter jets from France. **P7**

J&K statehood buzz as PM calls all-party meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Srinagar / New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will chair an all-party meeting with at least 14 politicians from Jammu and Kashmir, including four former chief ministers and four deputy CMs, in the national capital on June 24, triggering speculation that restoration of statehood is on the cards.

The move comes weeks before the second anniversary of scrapping of J&K's special status and its bifurcation into two Union Territories. According to sources, the meeting's agenda also includes delimitation process and elections.

According to sources in Srinagar, PDP chief and former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti was the first to receive the invitation. She has convened a meeting of the party's Political Affairs Committee in Srinagar on Sunday to decide whether to participate. As a goodwill gesture, the government on Saturday released Mehbooba's maternal uncle Sartaj Madni, who was under detention for nearly six months.

Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, and senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad are the other three former CMs invited. Union Home minister Amit Shah will also attend the meeting, the first such exercise since the Centre abrogated J&K's special status.

Political commentator Noor Mohammad Baba said the Centre is under pressure to soften its Kashmir policy due to both internal and external factors. "There are more strategic factors. Kashmir is not like any other place in India. It is being watched. The UN agencies are also keeping an eye on the situation," he said.

Name sports awards after Milkha Singh

ASHOK KUMAR

I knew the legendary Milkha Singh personally because of my father, Major Dhyan Chand. Every time we met, he would enquire about his health. We had a practice camp in Chandigarh before the 1975 World Cup, which we won. Being an official of the Punjab Sports Department, Milkha sir would often visit us. He was a man of few words, but ensured we got the best of facilities.

One day he invited a few senior players for lunch. I was one of them. Given his keen eye on dining table etiquettes, we all had to use forks and knives. Most of us were not habituated to this, especially me. I somehow managed, without getting noticed. Age difference and his seniority mea nt we interacted formally on most occasions.

Most of our conversations centred on my father, who used to address him as 'Milkhe'. The demise of Milkha sir saddens me. He and Balbir Singh Sr were the pillars of Indian sports after Independence. Unfortunately, we lost both in a short span of time. It's time we gave them the recognition they deserve. We should name national sports awards after them. These legends inspired generations of athletes.

The writer, a former India hockey captain and World Cup winner, spoke to Firoz Mirza

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30% seats for students completing X and XII from schooling districts of Trichy and Thanjavur.

IMPORTANT DATES*
Last Date for Submission : July 31, 2021 (5 p.m.)
Rank List (Stream-1 & Stream-2) : July31, 2021 (9 p.m.)
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ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 20/06/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Dashami 12.17 pm
Nakshatra: Chittha 3.35 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST: Cloudy

Sunrise 5.54 am
Sunset 6.48 pm
Moonrise 2.21 pm
Moonset 1.44 am

THIS FARMER IS A VINTAGE CAR ENTHUSIAST

In nearly two decades, he has purchased over 20 vintage British and American cars

DIVYA CUTINHO @Mangaluru

THE legendary singer Kishore Kumar and Bajpe – the village where Mangaluru's international airport is located – have one thing in common: a car. The 1937 British Austin 7 Ruby used in the 1958 film Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi starring Kishore Kumar was bought by Rathnakar Bhandary, an arecanut and paddy farmer who lives in Bajpe, about 20km from Mangaluru.

Over two decades, Rathnakar has indulged his love for vintage cars and has bought and even restored several of them. What's more, they're all in running condition. In nearly two decades, he has purchased over 20 vintage British and American cars and currently owns an Austin, a 1951 model Morris Minor, a Willys jeep, and Indo-British open-top Standard Herald. He restored and sold the rest.

The first vintage car he bought was a Willys jeep about 16 years ago from the previous owner in New Delhi. At the time, he bought it for Rs 20,000, but now, its value is around Rs 7 lakh, Rathnakar says. "It had no value until recently and now everybody wants it," he says.

Although it is a challenge to repair some of them – given that they require special technical know-how because they use older technology – Rathnakar, who is has a diploma in automobile engineering, still loves doing it.

"I have some technical knowledge because I repair pumps. Though many people own vintage cars, the vehicles are not in working condition. My cars are in running condition. We need to look after these cars as if they were our own children," he says. His wife Divya and children Riya and Rishabh are also vintage car aficionados.

He bought a Chevrolet from New Delhi last year and sourced spare parts from the USA and UK. "It was supposed to be scrapped. It had some engine issues and we modified it a little. Its mileage is around 4-5km per litre," he says.

He usually doesn't change anything about a vintage car. "Even if you change one part, it loses its value," Rathnakar says. He spent around Rs 32 lakh on the Chevrolet, including Rs 1.5 lakh on repairs. Its six-cylinder engine is as big as that of a bus. "This car will keep going for another 500 years if maintained well. It drives smoothly."

He bought the Morris from someone in Gadag, while the 1964 model Standard Herald was purchased from Uttar Pradesh. It was not in running condition when he bought it and he spent around Rs 2 lakh restoring it.

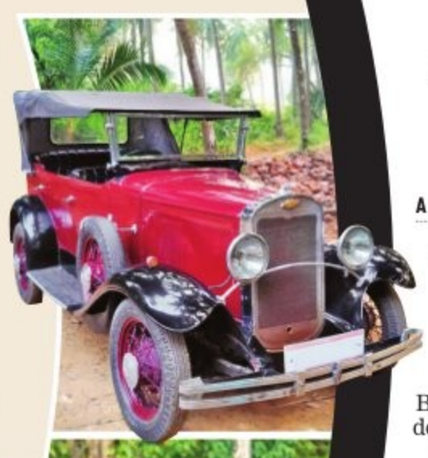
Of all the cars Rathnakar has bought, the Austin is his favourite. He bought it for Rs 8 lakh and then spent nearly double that amount to refurbish it. Once owned by cricketer Ajay Jadeja's family, the car may also appear in a Kannada tele-film to be shot in Honnavar, a coastal town in Uttara Kannada district. In the past, he used to participate in vintage car rallies and also in Republic Day exhibitions, but has stopped as the cars get damaged. He wanted to buy a Beetle car from Delhi but decided against it due to financial constraints.

"A lot of people discarded or sold vintage cars as spare, but I am proud to own these old beauties. These are my treasures," he says, adding that younger people should develop an interest in collecting these vintage cars and preserve them.

Many times when he has taken his vintage beauties out for a spin, people have followed him, sometimes even right up to his house, to take pictures. Look at the cars, and little wonder that people would want pictures of the sleek wheels.

A lot of people discarded or sold vintage cars as spare, but I am proud to own these old beauties. These are my treasures

— Rathnakar Bhandary



One trip fetches him
₹500 - 600

Siddaraju's only wish is to give his son, now in Class 6 at the Belagola Government School, a good education.

Raju enrolled me in a church that was running a physiotherapy centre for the poor, and there I learntexercises and my condition slowly improved. I returned home and started exercising regularly, and finally, I was able to move around with assistance. My legs were still frozen, I was unable to do any work, so I took to begging

— Siddaraju

COMING UP TRUMPS

AJITH M S @ Mysuru

A year ago, Siddaraju was seeking alms on the streets of Mysuru, helpless and alone. The differently-abled man now flies through the same streets on his scooter, rushing sackloads of onions to be sold on the city's outskirts.

While the pandemic has changed lives, even bringing people to their knees, it has helped Siddaraju stand on his feet. Behind this positive transformation lies a tragic tale and the determination to take care of his 13-year-old son.

Siddaraju, a native of Belagola on the outskirts of Mysuru city, was a busy mason until disaster struck in the form of a life-threatening nerve disorder that left him disabled. "I was paralysed neck downwards from 2017, and after treatment at Nimhans, Bengaluru, I was bedridden. That is when my wife left me and my son, who was just 10. I struggled to move, and we had no means or help to get even a square meal a day," he said.

It was as if Siddaraju had reached the nadir. Recounting his plight, Siddaraju said there were days when he had only his son for help, and had to sleep in his own faeces for weeks. They had nothing to eat for days.

His wife's departure and the struggle that followed ignited the urge to get back on his feet, and he sought the help of his former contractor, Raju, from nearby Jettihundi, with whom he used to work.

"He enrolled me in a church that was running a physiotherapy centre for the poor, and there I learnt exercises and my condition slowly improved. I returned home and started exercising regularly, and finally, I was able to move around with assistance. My legs were still frozen, I was unable to do any work, so I took to begging," Siddaraju said. He knew this was the only way he could feed his child and aged mother. But life had another hand to deal: the pandemic and resultant lockdown. His meagre income dried up, and things slid downward again. "For three months, we had no money, as I couldn't seek alms. It was a terrible situation," he said.

Even the pandemic couldn't hold down Siddaraju, though. He was determined to earn a living. Help again came from the same quarters: Raju and his sister helped him get a scooter, modified for the differently-abled, from the Zilla Panchayat, under a scheme for the disabled.

Starting off on his scooter, Siddaraju got busy, ferrying vegetables from the APMC Market in Mysuru to the outskirts and surrounding villages. "I first started with the resale of leafy vegetables which were cheaper, but the earnings were less." So he opted for the more profitable onion, and once again, Raju helped him with the first investment to buy onions. Though still partially paralysed, he loads heavy sacks on to the scooter, and with some help, hoists himself on to the seat. "With restrictions in the city again, there is much demand for vegetables in shops on the outskirts," he said, adding that one trip fetches him Rs 500 - 600.

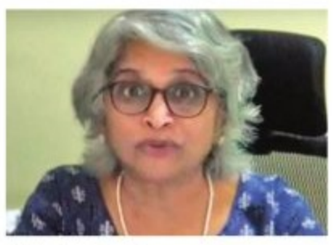
Siddaraju's only wish is to give his son, now in Class 6 at the Belagola Government School, a good education. "Since classes are online, I saved some money and finally bought him a mobile. It was the biggest purchase I made, after maybe four years, " said Siddaraju.

All he wants is for his son to get a "salaried job". And for that, he is willing to surmount any odds.

'Support must for mental health care'

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

DR Pratima Murthy, head of the Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, has been appointed as director of the premier mental health institute for a period of five years. She will retire in March 2026.



Dr Pratima Murthy

She was appointed by NIMHANS on June 18 on the approval of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as full-term director of the institute of national importance after Prof and Head of Neurology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Dr Padma Srivastava, could not assume the top office due to some technical reasons.

In her first and exclusive interview soon after her appointment to the top post, Dr Murthy told TNSE that there was a "dire need to integrate mental health issues related to Covid in the National Mental Health Mission (NHM)." "NIHMANS has gone through a rather challenging time since the outbreak of the pandemic in identifying and addressing mental and psycho social issues, which are related to Covid-19 on a national platform. It is now imperative to not only institutionalise mental health, but to build community-based support for mental healthcare," said the senior psychiatrist.

She said that mental distress and Covid-19 can be looked at from two aspects. "One is from the psychological reactions that people have experienced for more than a year now, and secondly, the experiences of being affected by the virus and its neuro-psychiatric sequelae," she added.

All viral infections of the respiratory system can affect many other systems, including the central nervous system. "These are particularly likely in older persons and those who are more vulnerable. People who recover from Covid require longer-term mental health support as rates of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder are higher among them," she said.

It is now imperative to not only institutionalise mental health, but to build community-based support for mental healthcare

Dr Pratima Murthy, head of the Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru

Citizen participation must for clean city, says new chief

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

"WE all want clean roads, but do we know the person who collects garbage from our home, who sweeps the streets and who is the person to go to in case of any issues?"

This is the level of citizen involvement that is needed not just to keep the city clean, but also to improve the Swacch Bharat ranking, said Dr Harish Kumar, who took charge as Special Commissioner, solid waste management, BBMP, from D Randeep on Saturday.

Kumar said citizen participation is needed at all levels to improve the city. If every citizen gets involved at the very first step of garbage collection and knows the person coming to their doorsteps there will be an impact.

Randeep has now taken charge as special commissioner, health and IT, BBMP.

Kumar said he will hold discussions with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and ground staff to find out how masks and other medical wastes are being handled and disposed of. This is important because of the pandemic and rising quantities of such waste.

"As SWM Commissioner, I have come to the post with a blank mind. Active involvement and feedback from citizens and staffers will help me ensure a clean and garbage-free city. There is a need for citizens to engage in the process for clean roads. My predecessor has done tremendous work and it will only be improved now," he said.

"Once we know the answers to the first three questions, we are on the right path of improvement. Citizens are normally interested only at the level that garbage is collected properly from their homes. If this is 100 per cent, then leave the rest -- transportation and treatment of garbage -- to us (BBMP). It is my responsibility," he added.

Citizen participation is easy in villages where there are multiple bodies, but is a quantum task in Bengaluru, where the population is large

Dr Harish Kumar, Special Commissioner, solid waste management, BBMP

Dr Harish Kumar

Action against improper waste mgmt: Minister

Minister of Forest, Kannada and Culture Aravind Limbavalli warned officers and contractors that action will be taken against them if solid waste management is not executed properly. After holding a meeting with officers, contractors and self-help groups in Mahadevapura, he said, "Officers and contractors should immediately solve citizens' problems."

College curriculum to get NEP touch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Higher Education Department has formed several committees of experts to give a makeover to the curriculum for undergraduate and post-graduate courses in the State, to be in line with the National Educational Policy (NEP).

The government has constituted three committees under Faculty of Arts (Social Sciences, Humanities, Fine Arts & Visual Arts), three committees for Faculty of Sciences (Physical & Mathematical Sciences, Chemical & Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences), one committee under the Faculty of Commerce & Management and one committee for the Faculty of Engineering. The curriculum worked out by these panels will come into effect from the current academic year.

Prof Y S Siddegowda, Vice-Chancellor, Tumakuru University, will Head the Social Sciences Committee of 13 members. Prof DB Naik, Vice-Chancellor, Kannada Janapada University, Shiggavi, will head the Humanities Committee of seven members. Prof Nagesh V Bettakote, Vice-Chancellor, GH Music & Performing Arts University, Mysuru will head the Fine Arts & Visual Committee of six members. Prof G Hemantha Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysuru, will head the Physical & Mathematical Sciences Committee of 11 members. Prof KB Gudasi, Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka University, Dharwad, will head the Chemical and Biological Sciences Committee of 11 members. Prof AM Pathan, Vice-Chancellor, KBN University, Kalaburagi, will head the Earth Sciences Committee of seven members.

What if CET marks are tied? Confusion prevails

ENS @ Bengaluru

STUDENTS are confused about the criterion that will be used as a tiebreaker in case two of them get the same rank in the Karnataka Common Entrance Test, as Class 12 exams have been cancelled this year.

The CET has allowed all candidates to take the test this year. Students said that some of them getting similar ranks could be a problem. Govind, a student, said, "We are waiting for a solution. We didn't care much about the Class 11 examination, but we will not be satisfied if those marks are not considered."

Hemant, another student, said that JEE marks could be considered as two sessions are done.

Pradeep P, Commissioner, Department of Collegiate Education said the solution has already been notified. "The scores of each subject would be compared. For instance, Physics, and then (if the tie persists), it would move to the next subject," he said.

Karnataka's first Kisan Rail, carrying 250 tonnes of mangoes grown in the state, was flagged off from Doddanatta in Chikkaballapur district, on Saturday. The train is bound to Adarsh Nagar in Delhi

Karnataka, Maharashtra to share real-time data to manage floods

Both states will set up better coordination mechanism at different levels

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TO manage floods effectively, Karnataka and Maharashtra have decided to share real-time data on rainfall and release of water from reservoirs in the Krishna and Bhima river basins. "We have agreed to share real-time data on rainfall and water release from reservoirs, both in the Krishna and Bhima basins, to manage floods effectively," Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa told media persons after the Interstate Flood Monitoring Committee meeting with Maharashtra Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil in Bengaluru on Saturday. Both the states decided to have better coordination at the ministerial-, secretarial- and at the field-level, the CM said, adding that they have decided to speed up Doodhganga project and complete it in the next two years.

Maharashtra Minister Jayant Patil noted that talks between the two states will lead to better understanding and help in flood management. "We have the experience of the 2019 floods. Last year, we had good understanding and the monitoring was good. At today's meeting, we have gone a step ahead and decided to share real-time data related to the Krishna basin. We need to dynamically manage Almatti water and water from Maharashtra flowing into the dam. If that is monitored and managed, we will be able to overcome floods effectively," Patil said. In the last 24 hours, parts of Kolhapur and Sangli districts in Maharashtra received heavy rainfall and are already facing floods. It is the same situation in a few rivers in Karnataka, he added.

NDRF personnel set out to resuce a man stuck on a bridge at Sidnal in Nippani taluk

Patil pointed out that Maharashtra has a real-time data acquisition system in the Krishna river basin, which helps their officials gauge the rate of water level increase to avoid flooding. Now, it has been decided to set up similar systems at Almatti and Narayanpura dams for better coordination between both the states, he said.

Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that when Maharashtra incrementally releases water from its dams, it takes around 48 hours to reach Almatti dam. "There are two challenges for us - there should not be flooding in Almatti backwaters and water released from the dam should not cause flooding. Real-time data sharing will help." Maharashtra has also agreed to release water incrementally to avoid flooding in the Bheema, he said. Bommai said that both states will work together to press for the final notification of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal award. The case is before the Supreme Court and both states will work together for early notification, he said.

WATER SHARING

In the Krishna basin, Karnataka faces shortage of 4 tmcft of water in April and May, and it is released from Maharashtra. "We used to pay for it, but after 2013, they are asking for release of water to drought-hit areas of Maharashtra during the rainy season and they will give us water in summer. We have agreed and technical details will be worked out by a joint technical team," Bommai said.

Doodhganga project

Bommai said that the Doodhganga project has been pending for several years even though work on the Karnataka side is almost complete. Maharashtra has said that it will complete work on its side in two years and give Karnataka its share of 2 tmcft of water. Maharashtra will provide enough funds for the completion of the Doodhganga project so that farmers in both states are benefited, Patil said.

Take steps to tackle floods, CM tells DCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa has directed all Deputy Commissioners to identify flood-prone villages in their districts and take necessary measures to tackle the situation, including shifting people to safer places.

The CM on Saturday held a video-conference with the DCs of 20 flood-prone districts to review the situation. For the first time, the State Flood Management Action Plan 2021, a gram panchayat-level disaster management action plan, has been prepared and 1,710 villages identified as flood-prone.

Many residents of villages that have been shifted due to the floods are hesitant to move in, the CM said and directed the officers to take necessary action to provide proper infrastructure in such villages (safer locations) by taking people into confidence and shift them.

The DCs have been directed to set up relief centres with the necessary infrastructure and provide medical facilities to the people. Inter-state coordination has been established to facilitate information exchange on the flow of water to reservoirs to manage the flood situation.

A flood forecast cell has been established at the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre and around Rs 1,000 crore is available with the DCs for disaster management.

ALL'S WELL FOR NOW?

Questions still linger on BSY's full-term run

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

WHILE the leadership issue in the state BJP has seemingly been put to rest for now, it may not be all that it seems. Senior BJP leaders in New Delhi indicated that after party General Secretary Arun Singh's recent visit, Chief Minister **B S Yediyurappa** has got some respite, but this may not be carte blanche.

There may still be a possibility of change of leadership in Karnataka once the Covid-19 situation is under control, with a section of leaders at the national and state level pushing for it. Yediyurappa may also be called to Delhi to meet the party bosses, the leaders hinted.

A senior minister in Yediyurappa's cabinet said there will be no change, at least for the next three months, as a third wave of Covid-19 is anticipated. "This is not the right time, but it might be done later," the minister said.

A senior party leader in Delhi said Yediyurappa has been called by the party top brass to Delhi, but it is not anytime soon. "The high command is clear that a leadership change is necessary before the state goes to election in 2023, but it will happen at the right time," the leader said. Some of the names in consideration include Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, D V Sadananda Gowda or it could even be a dark horse, the party leader added.

BJP sources said the leadership in Delhi is in a Catch 22-situation. Yediyurappa may be given a good post while ensuring his smooth exit without losing the Lingayat votes, they noted.

During his visit to the state, Arun Singh had warned the party leaders against expressing their views publicly and it was also discussed in the core committee meeting. A section of state party leaders too insists that there is no question of leadership change.

Panchamasali seer meets Arun Singh

Panchamasali Swamiji from Kudalasangama Basava Jayamruthyunjaya said on Saturday that he met BJP state In-charge General Secretary Arun Singh on Friday with the request to get 2A reservation status. He said, "I have apprised Singh about the problems faced by the community. The information about the population of the Panchamasali among the Lingayats and other issues were brought to his notice."

Cong wants House panel probe into graft charges

ENS @Bengaluru

KPCC president D K Shivakumar has demanded the government to constitute a Joint House Committee to probe alleged irregularities in the Irrigation Department and other allegations made by BJP legislators.

Speaking to media persons on Saturday, the Congress leader said BJP leaders themselves have alleged that the Irrigation Department violated norms in awarding tenders. Shivakumar also said he wanted to take it up in the Assembly. He asked the CM to convene the Assembly session as other states will be holding sessions and suggested that, if it is not possible, it can even be held virtually to discuss issues.

He said the party will face polls under collective leadership. Anyone, including himself, Siddaramaiah, Mallikarjuna Kharge, G Parameshwara can aspire to become the CM, but their aim is to bring the party to power. Asked about party MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan's statements regarding the next CM, Shivakumar said everyone must refrain from making such statements.

Why no Kannada training for MPs, asks KDA

ENS @Bengaluru

THE Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracy is organising 30 hours of virtual language classes for all MPs and officials from June 22 where they will be given training in six foreign languages and six Indian languages. However, the Kannada Development Authority has raised objections for not including Kannada.

The six foreign languages are French, Portuguese, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and German, while the six Indian languages are Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Odia. KDA chairman T S Nagabharana said they do not have any issues with including other languages, but it has hurt the sentiments of Kannadigas. "Karnataka has elected the highest number of MPs to Lok Sabha and if they do not include Kannada in the list, we will protest " he warned.

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We are pleased to announce the merger of our **SBI, Yeshwantpur Market Yard Branch (40569) No.44/45, 1st Floor, 2nd main Road, APMC Yard Yeshwantpur-560022** to a more convenient and spacious location. The new address is **SBI Yeshwantpur (3297) Tumkur Road, Near APMC Yard Yeshwantpur - 560022.** Our Telephone numbers are Anand K: 94480 20426, Pratiba R: 96630 70966, Branch Head Anirudh :82778 98833.

-Sd-
(Branch Manager)

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Phone: 080-22282507 Website: www.ksfc.in

No: KSFC/HO/Admn/34/2021-22 Date: 16-06-2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed printers for Printing & Supply of **KSFC Annual Report 2020-21.** The terms and conditions, EMD and other details are available for download at KSFC Website: **www.ksfc.karnataka.gov.in.** The Bids along with EMD should be submitted **on or before 30-06-2021 before 4.00 PM** to the Manager (Administration) at the address given above.

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Assistant General Manager (P & A)

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ATM : 1. Byappanahalli Metro Station, **2.**Brigade Road, **3.**Around Forum Mall, Koramangala, **4.**Kumaraswamy Layout, **5.**Hanumanthanagar, **6.**Near Shivajinagar Bus Stand and **7.**Madiwala.

Offers be made by interested parties for renting their premises on long term basis in sealed envelope superscribed with words **"OFFER FOR EASE OUTLET/ATM PREMISES"** containing TWO separate Sealed covers **(ONE FOR Technical and SECOND for Financial Bid).**The Bid must be submitted strictly as per prescribed formats and no column should be left blank. Separate application should be submitted for each location. The landlords holding clear title to the property may go through detailed notification for submission of offers in our website **www.pnbindia.in,** may also be obtained from above mentioned address upto **5.00 PM of 30.6.2021**. The last date for submission is **12.7.2021 upto 5.00 pm.** Further changes, if any, will be notified in our website.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 19.6.2021

Circle Head
Bangalore East Circle.

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Property Mortgaged to Bank Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. (No 54 of 2002) -- SARFAESI ACT

1).Smt.R.Varalakshmi

2).Sri.N.Rajesh Reddy

Whereas **(1).Smt.R.Varalakshmi** W/o Rajesh Reddy.N and **(2).Sri.N.Rajesh Reddy** S/o Nanjunda Reddy residing at House list No.93/2, Garden Homes, Yellukunte Village, Next to Adarsh Esplenda, HSR Layout, 7th Sector, Bangalore-560 102 has borrowed monies from **Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha**, marathahalli Branch, #23, Outer ring Road, Anandanagar, Marathahalli, Bangalore – 560037 and he owe a sum of **Rs.61,86,971/-** (Rupees Sixty One Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy only) and **Rs.45,63,401/-** (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Four Hundred One only) only with further interest @ 13.50% per annum as on **19/06/2021** and costs.

Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank has issued notice under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and thereafter has taken possession of the mortgaged property owned by **Smt.R.Varalakshmi** W/o Rajesh Reddy. N residing at House list No.93/2, Garden Homes, Yellukunte Village, Next to Adarsh Esplenda, HSR Layout, 7th Sector, Bangalore-560 102 and has decided to sell the property, described in Schedule herein below, on **'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS'** under rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DETAILS OF SALE:

Place of Auction: Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, #113, R.V.Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.

Date/Day & time of auction: 22/07/2021 (THURSDAY) At 11:00 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of Western portion of converted land bearing Sy.No.63, old No.47 of Picchaguntrahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Malur, Measuring 1 Acre 16 Guntas and bounded on the, East By: Remaining portion of land in same Sy.No. sold to Mohammed Barakathula R, West by:Gopalappa's land, North by:Road, South by: Nanjappa's land.

Reserve Price: Rs. 1,09,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Nine Lakh) Only.

Terms & Conditions of Auction:

1) For participating in the auction, the intending bidders have to deposit 10% of reserve price of the property by Bankers cheque/Demand Draft favouring the Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Payable at Bangalore which is refundable, if the bid is not successful.

2) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance within 15 days. Payment to be made only in the form of cash or bankers cheque/ DD drawn in favour of the Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.

3) Incase the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance amount within 15 days, the entire deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice.

4) The successful bidder would bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee etc., as applicable as per law.

5) The Authorised officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale.

6) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/ postpone the auction without assigning any reason therefore.

7) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.

8) The auction of the property will be made as per the above order or at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.

9) For inspection of property, the intending bidders may contact, **Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha**, Marathahalli Branch, No.23, Service Road, Outer Ring Road, Anandanagar, Marathahalli, Bangalore – 560 037 during the office hours or may contact at telephone No.080 25401160/61,8496005000.

Date : 20.06.2021
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- (K.P.Ganesh)
Authorised Officer
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TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

5,815 CASES REPORTED TODAY

5,783 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY 28,01,936

YESTERDAY 27,96,121

DEATHS

TODAY 161 | YESTERDAY 168

DISCHARGES

TODAY 11,832 | YESTERDAY 15,290

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY 1,30,872

YESTERDAY 1,37,050

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY 8.60%

YESTERDAY 8.63%

[The day positivity rate — 3.38% — is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.]

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY 1.20%

YESTERDAY 1.20%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY 94.12%

YESTERDAY 93.89%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until June 19, 2021, a total of 28,01,936 cases have been reported in 1 year and 99 days...

1,83,32,366 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	32,00,255
Health care workers 1st dose	7,42,942
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,88,485
Frontline workers 1st dose	7,33,484
Frontline workers 2nd dose	2,34,504
Age 18-45 1st dose	36,38,899
Age 18-45 2nd dose	27,076
Above 45 1st dose	10,016,786
Above 45 2nd dose	24,50,190

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

1,263 BENGALURU URBAN

161 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot: 11	Chamarajanagar: 113	Dakshina Kannada: 832	Hassan: 391	Kolar: 132	Raichur: 16	Udupi: 174
Ballari: 128	Chikkaballapura: 105	Davanagere: 194	Haveri: 20	Koppal: 62	Ramanagara: 24	Uttara Kannada: 144
Belagavi: 222	Chikkamagaluru: 177	Dharwad: 83	Kalaburagi: 28	Mandya: 208	Shivamogga: 223	Vijayapura: 44
Bidar: 3	Chitradurga: 113	Gadag: 28	Kodagu: 135	Mysuru: 594	Tumakuru: 182	Yadgir: 5

'WE NEED HUMAN RESOURCES TO BE READY FOR 3RD WAVE'

CHETANA BELAGERE
@Bengaluru

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

EVEN while there has been a considerable decline in fresh Covid-19 cases, the second wave is not over yet. Dr Devi Shetty, cardiac surgeon and founder-chairman, Narayana Health, speaks to *TNSE* about the third wave situation in the country, in the state and how not just health infrastructure, in terms of oxygen beds and ICUs are important, but how special planning and action needs to be taken towards getting human resources ready. Tweaking the NEET exams is one of the easiest solutions, he says. Dr Shetty, who heads the expert committee on combating the third wave of Covid-19 in Karnataka, speaks about ways to deal with vaccination hesitation and how inoculation is very important to reduce the impact of a third wave.

We are talking about the third wave. Are we done with the second wave? When do we expect the third wave?
No, we are not yet done with the second wave. Half the patients who are in ICU are still there. Lot of people have had severe lung infections and ICUs are not fully empty of Covid patients. But yes, the new infections have come down. As far as the third wave is concerned, I do not think anyone can predict this. We should be prepared for the next wave any time after September.

When you say we must be prepared, what specific preparations can we make?
We have to assume that the third wave will be 30 per cent more severe than the second wave. I can't say for sure whether it will be as bad or worse than the second one, or whether it mainly involves children, etc. If we think that the next wave is going to be less severe than the previous one, we tend to lower our guard. Failure to prepare is like preparing to fail. We should be prepared.

We are lucky that in Karnataka, our government is proactive. There is a task force created and the Chief Minister and Health minister are involved in checking the preparations, etc. However, our biggest worry is that every wave throws up new surprises. When I was a medical college student, I had a poster in my room which said, "When I had answers to all of life's questions, they changed the question paper". This is what Covid is doing to us. So, we should be prepared for surprises. Creating paediatric ICUs, oxygen beds as much as possible, health infrastructure, will definitely not go waste. We desperately need more paediatric beds, ICU beds, oxygen beds, etc. These are progressive steps taken by the government.

Now that there is work happening on health infrastructure, what about human resources? Doctors are exhausted. How do we manage this crisis? Is there a quick fix to this?
Yes, there is a quick fix. There are only a few countries in the world which can come up with a quick fix and we are lucky we can do it. If you want. The NEET P-G exam is scheduled in September, and that is too late. There is a possibility of Covid hitting at that time. We may not be able to conduct the exam, so this should be advanced and held as early as possible with just one month's notice to students. Then, the results need to be published very quickly. Around 1,80,000 doctors appear for NEET. Of those who clear the exams, 35,000 doctors can be directly posted in the Covid ICUs. About 1,40,000 doctors should be told to join as government doctors on a temporary basis and paid stipends for the duration they work. Based on how many months they have worked, they should get the grace marks for the next year. There should be a record of their attendance, etc. Giving grace marks to a doctor who worked for a government facility is standard procedure, so you are not doing anything new. These doctors should be posted in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities with enough facilities for them. It is here that the healthcare staff are needed the most.

Has this idea been proposed to the government?
Yes, there has been a discussion on this. Their fear is exploitation. How do they monitor if a private hospital provides a certificate saying someone has worked in a Covid ICU? Everyone can come up with a certificate. But I would say that's the reason we should recruit them as government hospital employees. There will be documentation, attendance records, etc.

There is a lot of vaccine hesitancy amongst people. How can this be overcome?
Today, everyone is moaning about not having enough vaccines. Trust me, in another month, we will have a good number of vaccines to enhance the pace of administration. Then comes the issue of vaccine hesitancy. This has to be addressed NOW. For this, other than creating awareness, videos of housemaids, helpers, etc, showing their entire family vaccinated, can be publicised. This will be better reassurance than celebrity endorsements.

Also, certain policies have to be put in place. For instance, people should be allowed to take public transport with either a Covid-negative report which is not less than a week old or with a vaccination certificate. Even if it is one jab, that's good enough. All employers have to come up with a similar policy for their staff. All housewives should encourage and support their housemaids, drivers, etc, to get vaccinated.

Another policy change which has been suggested to Karnataka is that vaccination should not remain in the refrigerator for more than 10 days. If a hospital gets 50k vaccine doses, it should administer all of it within 10 days or give it to another hospital which doesn't have vaccines. This way, government hospitals will become efficient and private ones won't be able to hoard it. Also, vaccination spots cannot be at a far away place and people made to wait in long queues. It must either reach their place of dwelling or work. Insurance companies too should insist that policyholders get vaccinated.

Also, government hospitals are considered as potential hotspots and many people avoid going there for vaccination. The government should provide vaccines to all small and big private hospitals too and pay Rs 150, which is the cost to administer the vaccine. There is Rs 20,000 crore in CSR funds available and this money should be mostly spent now on vaccines. In our experience, very few people who have had both doses of vaccination have landed in ICUs.

Many post-Covid complications are being seen. Is there a strategy in place to handle this?
Why it happens, who it happens to, no one knows. In general, asymptomatic patients are not suffering with this. It is mainly those who have stayed in ICUs and have had steroids, etc. There surely is work going on to handle this. However, the only solution I would say is to vaccinate and ensure the next wave is similar to the common cold.

There is a buzz in political circles that you have been asked to join the Union Ministry as Health Minister. Is this true?
I have absolutely no political interests.

As far as the third wave is concerned, I do not think anyone in the world can predict this. We should be prepared for the next wave any time after September - **Dr Devi Shetty, founder-chairman, Narayana Health**

PANEL: OVER 1.5L CHILDREN MAY BE INFECTED IN NEXT WAVE

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

THE high-level expert committee on combating the third wave of Covid-19 in Karnataka has predicted that 1.5-2 lakh children might get infected with the virus in the state. The panel, headed by Dr Devi Shetty, founder-chairman, Narayana Health, submitted its report to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday.

The committee has suggested increasing infrastructure and manpower, including paediatric care infrastructure, number of intensivists, nurses and paramedical staff and increasing the number of paediatric ICU beds, particularly in districts like Haveri, Koppal and a few others in North Karnataka.

The estimated population of children between the age group of 0 and 18 is over 2.3 crore in Karnataka. According to the committee members, in the first wave, over 70,000 children aged less than 10, were infected, while in the second wave, until March 31, 1.20 lakh were infected.

"We are looking at 1.50-2 lakh children getting infected during the third wave and about 1-2 per cent getting severely infected. We will require over 500 PICU beds on a single-day basis across Karnataka. In the worst case scenario, we would need around 6,000 PICU beds," said a committee member.

Testing of children through nasal swab will be difficult as many are not cooperative and hence, the committee has advised to go for salivary and gargle testing for children.

Meanwhile, psycho-social aspects of health care workers and children will also need special attention, says the report. It has recommended counselling and training sessions to be held for both the groups to train them on how to cope up with different issues.

It is expected that Bengalureans will be the worst hit in the third wave. Hence, the infrastructure and manpower and oxygen units have to be ramped up, said the member. The committee has recommended to the government include over 3,000 paediatricians to carry out mass vaccinations. It has also advised that with 40-50 pc of healthcare taken care by private players, the government should have public-private partnership to combat the third wave.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said, "The committee has prepared a preliminary report and submitted it to the Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa. We will start the preparations within 45 days of receiving the final report." The minister also said that a 'Lasika Mela' will be held in the state on June 21 with the aim of inoculating 5-7 lakh people on that day.

A health worker collects swab samples of a child in Bengaluru | VINOD KUMAR T

Country's first vax for kids may get nod soon

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

INDIA'S first Covid-19 vaccine for children between the age group of 12 and 18, ZyCoV-D, has been sent by pharmaceutical firm Zydus Cadila for emergency use authorisation to the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) after its clinical trials ended successfully in the country. The much-awaited vaccination of children is expected to begin once ZyCoV-D gets the DCGI nod in the next eight to ten days.

Although the actual trials end in February 2022, as per guidelines, sources said, vaccination of children can be launched if DGCI gives an emergency approval midway. Clinical trials began in February this year. Sources said, emergency approval to vaccinate both children and adults has been sought.

Dr Amit Bhate, who headed the clinical trials of ZyCoV-D at Jeevan Rekha Hospital, Belagavi --- which is one of the 20 centres where trials were held-- said, "It is a three-dose vaccine and children and adults will have to take the second dose 28 days after the first dose and the third dose on the 56th day." In each of the 20 centres, including Jeevan Rekha, 20 children between the age group of 12 and 18 have undergone clinical trials.

It was business as usual at Bengaluru's Kalasipalya market during the lockdown relaxation hours on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

CM: Relaxed norms to come into effect in 16 dists from tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS Covid-positive cases are coming down in Karnataka, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Saturday announced further relaxation in working hours and allowed more business establishments to reopen from Monday. This unlock phase will be effective only in districts that have positivity rate less than 5 per cent.

Yediyurappa told reporters that the decision to lift curbs was taken based on the technical advisory committee recommendations and discussions with his cabinet ministers. Bengaluru Urban, Yadgir, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Mandya, Koppal, Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Gadag, Raichur, Bagalakot and Tumakuru are among the 16 districts that will see relaxed curbs.

Here, all business establishments will be allowed to open till 5 pm. Hotels, clubs and restaurants can operate with 50 per cent seating capacity and without operating the air-conditioning. They cannot serve liquor and have to shut shop by 5 pm. Lodges and resorts too have been allowed to reopen, again with 50 per cent capacity.

Outdoor shooting of films and TV serials has been approved with limited members. Sports events can be organised without audience. Gyms can reopen, but with 50 per cent attendance and without switching on the AC, the order stated.

Government-owned buses (BMTC in Bengaluru) and Metro trains can operate with 50 per cent seating capacity, while government and private offices can function with 50 per cent of staff.

As many as 13 districts have positivity rates between 5 and 10 per cent. They are Hassan, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga, Chamarajanagar, Chikkamgaluru, Bengaluru Rural, Davanagere, Kodagu, Dharwad, Ballari, Chitradurga and Vijayapura. These districts will continue to follow the guidelines announced on June 11. Mysuru has over 10 per cent case positivity rate and there the restrictions will continue.

Parks are allowed to open from 5 am to 6 pm for walking and jogging. Air-conditioned shops, air-conditioned shopping complexes and malls are not permitted to function.

The new guidelines will be effective from 6 am on June 21 to 5 am on July 5.

769 children test Covid +ve in Mysuru in last 10 days

KARTHIK KK @Mysuru

AN alarming trend of more children testing positive for Covid-19 over the last 10 days in Mysuru district has come as a shocker to parents who are already reeling under the fear of a possible third wave that is likely to hit children.

According to the data available with TNSE, 769 children below the age of 18 have tested positive in the district between June 9 and 18. Of them, 301 are between the age group of 0 and 10. Mysuru district has reported over 7,600 Covid-19 cases in the last 10 days and going by the data, close to 10% of fresh cases are below the age of 18.

A senior health official said that most of the children were asymptomatic and were in home isolation. The official said hospitalisation among this age group was less compared to adults.

The official also pointed out that over 4,500 children between the age group of 0 and 10 were infected with Covid-19 in the district since March last year. "While 1,521 kids were infected in the first wave, over 3,000 children have been infected from April 2021 till date," the official said.

Meanwhile, the Mysuru district administration is making efforts to improve paediatric facilities anticipating the third wave. DC Dr Bagadi Gautham said that the primary focus now was on containing the current situation and the administration will also be focussing on paediatric management.

COVID BYTES

Black fungus found in lower jaw of patient

Chitradurga: Considered a rare case, an incident of a patient suffering from mucormycosis (black fungus) affecting the lower jaw below the molar tooth has been reported in Chitradurga district. According to a statement issued by SJM Dental College Hospital, black fungus generally affects the upper jaw. College principal Dr Gowramma said that only 3% of the population suffer from black fungus in the lower ja. Upon examining the patient, a team of doctors-- Dr Nagarajappa, Dr Tanveer Ahmed and Dr Madhumathi--- diagnosed mucormycosis below the molar tooth in the lower jaw.

KPCL, pvt firms set up 100 O_2-bed facility

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) on Saturday entered into a partnership with Boeing India, Selco Foundation and Doctors for You to set up a 100 oxygenated bed facility at KPCL's campus in Yelahanka. The facility, set up in 20 days, will help treat mild and moderate Covid-19 patients. It will not just help in the management of the second wave, but the third wave also. The facility will also act as a support system for the existing hospitals in Yelahanka. Of the 100 beds, 10 are ICU and 20 are HDU beds. The unit has a triage centre, pharmacy, lab, resting area, nurse stations and meeting rooms.

Draft rules out on transgender quota: Govt

State tells High Court it's looking to provide 1 per cent job reservation

No government took this step. Many are deprived of joining the mainstream. This will be an attempt to bring them to mainstream jobs. I hope even the private sector comes forward to implement similar steps

Jogathi Manjamma, Transgender and folk artist, Padma Shri awardee and chairperson, Karnataka Janapada Parishath

We have sent a proposal to the DPAR and we expect to implement the reservation at the earliest. Once it is done, it will be applicable for all cadres in the government sector. We will be the first state to implement it

Shashikala Jolle, Women and Child Development Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE State Government has informed the Karnataka High Court that draft rules have been published to amend Rule 9 of the Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules, so as to provide 1 per cent reservation for transgenders in jobs.

A copy of the draft notification has been placed before a division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Suraj Govindaraj in response to public interest litigation filed by Sangama, an organisation working for the uplift of transgenders, and Nisha Gulur, who works for the welfare for transgenders. The petition sought reservation in jobs for the community under Section 2(k) of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

According to draft rules, the government has proposed to amend Rule 9 to insert Sub-Rule (1)(D) to mandate that 1 per cent of vacancies in any service or post should be filled from the transgender community in each category of general merit, SC, ST and in each of the categories among Other Backward Classes.

The draft rules further state that every appointing authority should provide a separate column, or 'others', along with the gender in the application for recruitment to any category of Group A, B, C or D posts. The recruitment authority or the appointing authority should not discriminate a transgender person during selection. If sufficient number of eligible transgender persons are not available, to the extent of 1 per cent, the unfilled vacancies should be filled by male or female candidates, as the case may be, belonging to the same categories.

The government advocate submitted that the state has not received any objections to the draft rules, notified on May 15, and will issue a final notification to the amendment soon. Recording this, the court adjourned the hearing to July 20.

DADDY COOL

A little girl gets a different perspective from high up on her father's shoulders, as the world celebrates Father's Day, while her mother keenly watches, in Bengaluru on Saturday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Murder: Real estate agent, friend held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Mohan Kumar (left) and H Nagaraj

RAJAGOPALNAGAR police have solved a case of murder of a 43-year-old private company employee, and arrested two suspects. The incident was reported in GKW Layout on June 16.

The accused have been identified as real estate agent Mohan Kumar (32), and his friend H Nagaraj (36), both residents of GKW Layout, where the victim, Karthik, also lived.

A senior police officer said that a property dispute between Karthik and Mohan is the primary motive behind the murder.

During investigation, police learnt that Mohan had helped Karthik purchase two flats at an apartment complex. While Karthik had paid commission for only one flat, he allegedly refused to pay for the other. He also reportedly went ahead and renovated both flats, converting them into one.

Despite Mohan repeatedly asking him to pay the balance amount of Rs 21 lakh, Karthing refused, leading to heated arguments between the two. After Mohan reportedly threatened Karthik, the latter decided to settle the score. Police stated that when Mohan started constructing a building near Karthik's apartment, he reportedly complained to the BBMP about certain violations in the construction work. In the meantime, Karthik is alleged to have also started spreading rumours on social media about Mohan's affair with some woman to tarnish his image. Enraged, Mohan took the help of his business partner, Nagaraj, and confronted Karthik while he was returning from work on his bike. They allegedly bludgeoned him to death.

Both Mohan and Nagaraj have been charged with murder.

EXPRESS READ

ACB arrests BESCOM engineer in bribery case

Bengaluru: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday trapped an executive engineer of BESCOM, while he was allegedly accepting a bribe from a contractor, and took him into custody. Police said that based on a complaint by an electrical contractor, EE (MT Division) Jagadish, was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 2,500 to grant permission to lay an 80-KV electrical wire at a godown.

85 vehicles with defective number plates booked

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru Traffic Police on Saturday conducted a special drive against the use of defective number plates and booked 85 cases. The drive was conducted across the West traffic division, which covers 18 police stations. Kuldeep Kumar Jain, DCP (West-Traffic), said that Rs 42,500 in fines has been collected and all 85 defective number plates were removed on the spot.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT - I, No.86, Spencer Tower, MG Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Phone No.: 080-25588642, 25588641,
Extn.: 530, E-mail : cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch-1, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 30/07/2021 (11.00 AM to 11.30 AM), for recovery of Rs. 462842643/- with further interest and cost thereon due to the ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from 1. M/S Air Pegasus Pvt Ltd Rep by its MD Mr Shyson Thomas " The Land Mark No. 21/15, MG Road Bengaluru 560001 now stands desloved as per the orders of NCLT dated 24.06.2020, 2. Mr Shyson Thomas S/o Late P C Joseph 3. Mrs Shyna Thomas W/o Shyson Thomas 4. Sri Ashwin Thomas S/o Sri Shyson Thomas all 2 to 4 residing at # 637/1 Ashwin Manor Air Port Road, HAL Post, Bengaluru – 5600175, M/s Decor Aviation Pvt Ltd Rep by Auth Signatory Sri Shyson Thomas # 22 and 23, 3rd Main, Air View Colony, HAL, Bengaluru 560017

The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 28/07/2021 at 5.00 pm by way of DD favouring Authorized Officer Canara Bank ARM-1 Branch or through online payment to Account No.7952296000001 (IFSC CNRB0007952) is as under.

(Rs. in lacs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	EMT of Vacant residential site with extent of site measuring 2475 sq ft & bearing Site No.25, Khatha No.788/25, Sy No.73/P13 & 73/P14, "Bhagyashree Residency", situated at Huttanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru standing in the name of Sri. Shyson Thomas Bounded by North ; Site No 26 of Byrappa & Papanna South : Road, East: Land of M Krishnappa, West Site No 26 of Kriyappa Anjinappa	42.33	4.24	1.00
2	EMT of residential land with extent of site measuring 2310 sq ft & building with Ground and First floor measuring 3700 sq ft & bearing Khatha No.55/490, then changed as No.196/57/492, Sy.No.125/5, PID No.73-21-7, situated at 2nd Cross, NAL wind tunnel main road, Murgeshapalya, Kodihalli Dhakale, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru standing in the name of Smt. Shyna Thomas. Bounded by North : Kalappas Property, South: Road, East : House No. 54/489, West : House No. 56/491	266.00	26.60	1.00
3	EMT of Vacant residential site with extent of site measuring 2400 sq ft & bearing H.A.S.B Khatha No.677, then changed as No.869/677/A, New Khatha No.677/A, situated at Doddaneekkundi village, K R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru standing in the name of Sri. Shyson Thomas bounded by North : Road, South : Property of Huma Shafiullas Property, East ; Vendors remaining Property West ; Chinnappa Reddy Property	229.00	22.90	1.00
4	a) Unit-1: All that piece and parcel of residential house in property bearing old site No. 38, as per revised plan portion of Site No. 27, old Khatha No. 65/2, New Khatha No. 27/a, situated at 5th cross, Munishmappa Layout, Konena Agrahara, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, earlier Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet and now bounded as follows: East by : Eastern portion of Site No. 27 of Smt.L. Sudha @ Parvathi,; West by: Site No. 28; North by: Site No.38; South by: Road b) Unit –II: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Eastern portion of Site No. 27, old khata No. 65/2, New BBMP Khatha No.6, situated in 5th Cross, Muniswamappa Layout, Konena Agrahara, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, earlier Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West 4 feet, on west 40 Feet on North: 52.25 feet on South: 44 feet and bounded on: East: Road; West: Western Portion of Site No.27 sold to Mr. Shyson-Thomas; North: Road; South: Road	273.00	27.30	1.00
5	All that part and parcel of residential property and building bearing HASB Khatha No.637/1, situated at Konena Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 25+35/2 Feet(1500 Sq.Feet) and bounded as follows: East by : HAL Compound; West by : Road; North by : Smt. Lakshmi's Property ; South by : BDA Drain and Road	190.00	19.00	1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.9483532366 during office hours on any working day.

Date: 18/06/2021
Place: Bangalore

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION
1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINES/Prayagraj-211001
FAX No.: 0532-2408826 www.core.indianrailways.gov.in

Corrigendum Details CORRIGENDUM-2 Corrigendum Publish Date: 18.06.2021,16:44
Tender Details
Tender No.-ELCORE-OHE-TSS-GR-299-M Closing Date- 05.07.2021
(Open Tender) Time: 15:00

Name of Work: "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 kV, 50 Hz, Single Phase, AC, Electrification Works including OHE & TSS as Composite Electrical Work" in Mysuru (Excl.)-Arsikere (Excl.)-& Hassan (Excl.)-Mangalore (Excl.) Section Gr. 299 of Mysuru Division of South Western Railway under RE Project Bangaluru, Total 347 RKM/410 TKM.

Items Modified
NIT Header

Field Name	Existing Value	Modified Value
Tender Closing Date Time	21.06.2021 15:00	05.07.2021 15:00

PR/50/2021 (V) "Serving Customers with a Smile"

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Bid No. E-08/2021-22 **E-Tenders** Date : 18.06.2021

E-Tenders are invited for & behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence :- S. No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. **S. No. 1**. 05211050 (05.07.2021), HSS Hacksaw Blade, Part No. 72017089, 1656 Nos., **S. No. 2**. 05211012A (05.07.2021), Flame Cutting Nozzle, Part No. 76905202, 12 Nos., **S. No. 3**. 05215099 (05.07.2021), IGUS Energy Tube Series, 1.5 Mtr., **S. No. 4**. 05215100 (05.07.2021), Internal Grooving Insert, 01 Set., **S. No. 5**. 05215102 (09.07.2021), Bending Die and Punch, 01 Nos., **S. No. 6**. 05215103 (09.07.2021), I.D. Grinding Fixture, 01 Nos., **S. No. 7**. 05215104 (12.07.2021), EOT Crane VVVFD Drive, 01 Nos., **S. No. 8**. 05211013A (12.07.2021), Contact Tip, Part No. 76901944, 119 Nos., **S. No. 9**. 06211112 (29.06.2021), MULTI CORE CABLE 9 X 0.5 SCR CAT NO. N/5/0032 C & D NO. T033/277 Specn : CLW SPECIFICATION NO. CLW/ES/3/0459/C to PL. No. 29600327, Qty. 7136 MTR., **S. No. 10**. 06211117 (29.06.2021), SINGLE CORE CABLE 4GKW-A X 25 1800 V BK CAT NO. N/8/0029 C & D NO. T023/164 Specn : CLW SPECIFICATION NO. CLW/ES/3/0458/E to PL. No. 29600110, Qty. 5551 MTR., **S. No. 11**. 06211113 (01.07.2021), MULTI CORE CABLE 2 X 1.0 SCR CAT NO. N/6/0032 C & D NO. T031/066 Specn : CLW SPECIFICATION NO. CLW/ES/3/0459/C to PL. No. 29600339, Qty. 12356 MTR., **S. No. 12**. 06211083 (30.06.2021), SINGLE CORE CABLE 4 GKW-A X 2.5 1800 V BK CAT NO. N/4/0029 C & D NO. T023/161 Specn : CLW SPECIFICATION NO. CLW/ES/3/0458/E to PL. No. 29600078, Qty. 588230 MTR., **S. No. 13**. 06211115 (30.06.2021), SINGLE CORE CABLE 4 GKW-A X 16 1800 V BK CAT NO. N/7/0029 C & D NO. T034/188 Specn : CLW SPECIFICATION NO. CLW/ES/3/0458/E to PL. No. 29600108, Qty. 9396 MTR., **S. No. 14**. 06211120 (28.06.2021), MULTI CORE CABLE 2 X 0.5 SCR CAT NO. N/1/0032 C & D NO. T031/065 Specn : CLW SPECIFICATION NO. CLW/ES/3/0459/C to PL. No. 29600285, Qty. 12238 MTR., **S. No. 15**. 06211111 (25.06.2021), MULTI CORE CABLE 2 X 2 X 0.5 SCR CAT NO. N/3/0032 C & D NO. T030/404 Specn : CLW SPECIFICATION NO. CLW/ES/3/0459/C to PL. No. 29600303, Qty. 11129 MTR., **S. No. 16**. 06211137 (14.07.2021), Main Transformer 6531 KVA Type ABB Lot 6500 OR Similar for WAG9 Electric Locomotive, CAT NO. P/0/0006, C & D NO. T011/001, Specn : CLW SPEC. NO. CLW/ES/3/0456, Rev. I to PL. No. 29731008, Qty. 100 Nos. The details of above Tenders are available on website **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in**. **CORRIGENDUM S. No. 1., Tender No. :** 06211057 **Bid No. :** E-04/2021-22 **Rev. :** 01 **Existing Due Date :** 02.06.2021 **Revised Due Date :** 01.07.2021. All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged.

PRO/BLW/S-10 SMM/G-II

/banaraslocowork "Website: https://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road)
Bengaluru-25. Ph: 080-25584102 / 25594893
Website: www.ksphc.org, e mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/2021-2022/200 Date: 18.06.2021

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

KSPH&IDCL invites online EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) for Empanelment of Third Party Quality Assurance & Monitoring for the works of KSPH&IDCL, costing between Rs. 2.00 Cr to 10.00 Cr from the Consultants / Firms through e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Empanelment is valid for 1 Year. Those Agencies who qualify after Technical Evaluation will be placed in the list of Pre-qualification for Empanelment.

The interested Consultants/Firms who are having specific experience in Quality Assurance & Project Monitoring services of Building works, having required infrastructure Technical as well as financial capabilities to undertake such services may participate in the online tendering process.

The details such as Tender Fee, EMD, Tender Documents etc., are available on e-Procurement Portal from **25.06.2021.**

"KSPH&DCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes/modifications in the tender will be updated only on e-Procurement portal.

Sd/-
DIPR/DDU/BCPL/595/2021-22 Executive Engineer - Contracts I/c

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
(MPED - Central), N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002

No: EE(MPED-C)/TEND/06/2021-22 Date: 19.06.2021

TENDER FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Two Cover System
(Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only) - 2nd Call

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) invites Request for Proposal from interested Firms/Organization those who have done similar type of work for the below mentioned work.

Name of the Project	
Consultancy Services for Preparation of Survey, Designs, Drawing, Estimate Preparation etc. For the work of Comprehensive Plan and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for renovation of the Council Building in BBMP Head Office.	
EMD (in ₹)	**Exempted as per GOK order no: FD/675/Expend/12/20-21 dt: 22.12.2020.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of Tender document is from **21.06.2021** at **4:00** pm onwards. (2) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting is on **29.06.2021** at **4:00** pm. (3) Last date for uploading the Filled Proposals is **05.07.2021** upto **4:30** pm. (4) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is on **07.07.2021** at **5:00** pm. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals **After approval of Technical Proposal.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (MPED-Central)

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
KMML Sankaramangalam, Chavara-691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217,
Fax: 91-476-2680101, 2686721, E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** or **www.kmml.com**.

	Tender ID	Items
1	2021_KMML_425766_1	For the supply of Roaster Exhaust Stack
2	2021_KMML_426227_1	For the Supply of PVC Pipe and Fittings
3	2021_KMML_425181_1	For the supply of Digester Gear Box

Chavara 19.06.2021 Sd/- DGM (Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

4	2021_KMML_426214_1	For the supply of High Tension Roll Separators

Any Amendment/Corrigendum for the above tenders shall be notified through above website & Company's website only.

Chavara 19.06.2021 Sd/- HOD (MS) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

5	2021_KMML_426325_1	Light Roofing over ERS Building
6	2021_KMML_426323_1	Annual contract for clearing vegetation/ grass/saplings with in KMML Premises 2021-2022

Chavara 19.06.2021 Sd/- HOU (T) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

Department of Mines & Geology
Office of the Senior Geologist, Dept of Mines & Geology (Mineral), 13th floor, V.V. Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore Urban District, Bengaluru-560001. Phone & Fax: 080-22861516,
E-Mail: **seniorgeologistbu1@gmail.com**

No.: DMG/BU/DroneSurvey-01/2020-21 Date: 20.06.2021

e-Tender Invitation (2nd Call)

Inviting Competitive Bid for providing service for conducting Drone and DGPS survey of Building stone Quarry leased/ licensed area and any quarry area identified by the officers of DMG to carry out Boundary fixation and Volume assessment of Mineral Extracted within and Outside the quarry area and to record the reduced level of quarry lease within the Bengaluru Urban District.

(1) Date of downloading the tender documents and other relevant details from the e-procurement portal: **21.06.2021. (2)** Venue and Address of the Pre-Bid meeting: **29.06.2021 at 11.30 a.m. Venue:** Office of the Senior Geologist, Dept of Mines & Geology (Mineral), 13th floor, V.V. Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore Urban District, Bengaluru-560001. **(3)** Last Date for submission of e-Tender: **06.07.2021 up to 5.30 p.m. (4)** Date and time of opening the Technical Bid: **08.07.2021 at 11.00 a.m.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal address **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For more details contact office of the Senior Geologist, Telephone No: 080-22861516.

The Corrigendum/Addendum, if any; will be displayed in the electronic procurement platform website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Geologist and Member Secretary, District Task Force Committee, Bangalore Urban District.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವೆನ್‌ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು.

ದೂರವಾಣಿ:0824-2413205 E-mail ID: supwenlock@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಸ್‌ಯುಪಿ(1)ಡಿ-4/2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-06-2021

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ (ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ) (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವೆನ್ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಜನರಿಕ್/ ನಾರ್ಕೋಟಿಕ್ ಔಷಧಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. 1999-2000 ನಿಯಮ ದಂತೆ **ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ** ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು e-procurement portal ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರೂ.550/-, ಅಂದಾಜು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು ರೂ.99,50,000/- ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಇ 675 ವೆಚ್ಚ -12/2020, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿ:22.12.2020ರಂತೆ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ಆದೇಶದವರೆಗೆ ತಡೆ ಹಿಡಿಯಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ. 16.06.2021 ರಿಂದ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು.

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **16.06.2021**
2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **30.06.2021** ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ
3. ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02.07.2021**

(ಅಥವಾ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದರೆ ಮರುದಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನದಂದು ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು)

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳ ಸಹಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ,
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ವೆನ್ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.)

No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2021-22/966 Date:19/06/21

-:ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT):-

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contractors registered in E-procurement portal in Public Works Department under KW- 1. 2. 3 & 4 Standard tender documents for a total of 13 works under **8443 Deposit Contribution, NABARD RIDF-25, 3054- MDR Bridge Maintenance(Flood), 3054-SH Bridge Maintenance & 5054 SH Improvements** with maximum & minimum tender amounts of Rs. 730.00 Lakhs & Rs. 14.02 Lakhs respectively and **EMD will be as per G.O. AAE.675/Expendature-12/2020, Bangalore, Dated:22-12-2020.** Part-1 Tender receipt Date is on 06-07-2021 upto 4.30 PM and Tender Opening Date is on 07-07-2021 after 4.45 PM, Part-2 Tender receipt Date is on 30-06-2021 upto 4.30 PM and Tender Opening Date is on 01-07-2021 after 4.45 PM, Part-3 Tender receipt Date is on 30-06-2021 upto 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 01-07-2021 after 4.45 PM, Part-4 Tender receipt Date is on 06-07-2021 upto 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 07-07-2021 after 4.45 PM For more information contact the office of the undersigned and **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** after 19-06-2021.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Belagavi Dn. Belagavi

DIPO/BGM/RONO.219/21-22

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ

ನಂ:ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀಮತ್ತುನೈವಿ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/ಪಿಪಿ-1,2&3/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2020-21/673 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18-06-2021

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ, **ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ,** ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ರವರಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ: ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
1) Indent No-**32248(KULALI)** -APT-115.94 CALL-6
2) Indent No-**32002(Sorgoan)** -APT-58.55 CALL-5

2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶಿರ್ಷಿಕೆ: ಜಲ ಜೀವನ ಮೀಷನ್-2020-21
3) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ: 3 ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ
4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಮ್ ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ
5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25-06-2021 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ**
6) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **28-06-2021 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ**
7) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **30-06-2021 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ**
8) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ, **ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ**

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ:- 1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ದರವನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ಮೊತ್ತದ DD/FDR ನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಟೆಂಡರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗಿಂತ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಹ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ 12% GST ಯನ್ನು ಸೇರಿಸಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ ಮತ್ತು ನೈ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ

ವ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/125/2021-22/ಬೇಜಪಾಂಡಿಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

ಕೋವಿಡ್-19. ಆತಂಕ ಬೇಡ; ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿ.
ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ದೈಹಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer-1 (Lakes), 3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: EE-1(Lakes)/TEND-12/2021-22 Date: 19.06.2021

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer-1 (Lakes), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works given in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Opening SNCU sick newborn care unit and ward at H Siddaiah Referral Hospital	97.00

EMD declaration form as specified in the tender document as per G.O. No: FD 675 Expenditure-12/2020 dated: 22.12.2020

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **21.06.2021. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **29.06.2021** at **4:00 p.m.** in the Office of the Executive Engineer-1, Lakes, BBMP. **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **05.07.2021** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical bids will be opened on the website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** in the Office of the Executive Engineer-1 (Lakes) on **06.07.2021** at **11:30 a.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer-1, Lakes, BBMP

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA

113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore- 560 004
Phone: 080-26601152/153, 8496005000,
E-mail: sssbn3mrh@sreenidhibank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

APPENDIX-IV (See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12),

Smt.Lakshmamma

13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **31/03/2021** calling upon the **Borrower Smt.Lakshmamma** W/o Srinivasappa. A, Residing at No.186, 2nd Cross Road, Shanthi Lakshmi Srinivasa Nilaya, Near Govt School, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037, demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.20,27,092/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand and Ninety Two only)** together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by her, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower has failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property owned by **Smt.Lakshmamma** mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realising the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on her under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **19th day of June 2021.**

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha for a sum of **Rs.20,87,374/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred & Seventy Four only)** on **19/06/2021** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing No.203, present BBMP Katha No.97/93/203, old HASB Katha No.189, later BBMP Katha No.93/203, situated at Marathahalli Village Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. Measuring East to West 17-0 feet and North to South 50-0 feet, total measuring an extent of 850 Sqft,.consisting of Ground and First floors and with all civic amenities and bounded on the, East By: 5 feet passage, West by : Property of late Shamanna Reddy and Gullamma and 2 feet passage, North by : 2nd Cross Road, South by : 5 feet Passage.

Date : 20/06/2021
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- (K.P.Ganesh)
Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Akshayanagara Branch
No.35 DLF New Township Akshayanagar
Nyanappanahalli Begur Hobli,
Bangalore South- 560068
Tel No.080-22959612

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest Action Notice-In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with in the branches mentioned herein below-classified as NPA We have to inform you that you whose Name & Address mentioned here in below had availed following credit facilities from **Union Bank of India, Akshayanagara Branch,** offering the property, mentioned here in below. Since you have failed to repay the loan amounts as agreed by you, your following mentioned account/s has/have been classified as Non Performing Assets [NPA] as on the date mentioned herein below. The individual notice has been also already sent to you demanding the due amount

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mr.Jeevan M Prop: M/s Akash Provision Store, No.20, Chikkakammanahalli, Gottigere Post, Bangalore 560083. No.64. Near Church, Chikkakammanahalli Gottigere Post, Bangalore 560083. **2) The Guarantor/s: Mr.Mutthappa,** No.64, Near Church, Chikkakammanahalli Gottigere Post, Bangalore 560083.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Nature of Limit	Limit Sanctioned (Rs in lakhs)	Rate of Interest	Outstanding Balance as on 03.06.2021 (Rs in Lakhs)
Secured Overdraft	10.00	8.55%	9.41

Amount Outstanding : as on 03.06.2021 for **Rs.9,41,150.92** (Rupees Nine Lakhs Forty One Thousand One Hundred Fifty and Paise Ninety Two only) together with interest

NPA Date: 31.05.2021 Demand Date : 03.06.2021

Description Of The Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of Residential Property belonging to Mr. Jeevan M (Owner of the Property),bearing Site No.64/2, Khatha No.64/2, Assessment No.64/2 situated at Kammanahalli Village, (Chikkakammanahalli), Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 95 Feet and North to South 28 Feet and bounded by East: Remaining portion of same Property, West: Remaining portion of same Property, North: Common Passage in same Property, South: Remaining portion of same Property

2. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Mrs.G Shyamala Prop: M/s Sri Byraveshwara Enterprises, Venkatappalayout, 9th Main Road, Garebhavipalya Main Road, Hongasandra, Bangalore 560068 No.61/151/28, Sri Byraveshwara Nilaya, Lakkappa layout, Nyanappanahalli, Begur, Bangalore 560068 **2. The Guarantor/s Mr.Jayashankar D M,** No.61/151/28, Sri Byraveshwara Nilaya, Lakkappa layout, Nyanappanahalli, Begur, Bangalore 560068

Name of Facility Amount Due

Nature of Limit	Limit Sanctioned (Rs in lakhs)	Rate of Interest	Outstanding Balance as on 15.05.2021 (Rs in Lakhs)
Term Loan	15.00	13.10%	9.14
Term Loan	1.65	7.50%	1.68

Amount Outstanding : as on 15.05.2021 for **Rs.10,81,305.10** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred Five and Paise Ten only) together with interest

NPA Date: 30.04.2021 Demand Date : 15.05.2021

Description Of The Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of Residential Property belonging to Mr.D M Jayashankar (Owner of the Property),bearing Northern portion of Site No.28, Khatha No.151/1, Nyanappanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 35 Feet and North to South 15 Feet and bounded by East: Private Property, West: Road, North: Property No.29, South: Remaining portion of Southern side of Property sold to Sri.S.Prabhakar

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 19.06.2021
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

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CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Yagachi Project Division, Belur

Addendum to Short Term Tender Notification No.04/2021-22 Dt: 14-06-2021

(Through e-procurement portal only) In the Short Term Tender Notification No.: 04/2021-22, dated 14.06.2021 called on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore for the work of **"Diversion of Water from Ranaghatta Pick up Weir for filling of Dwarasamudra and other 6 tanks in Belur taluk, Hassan district and Belavadi tank in Chikkamagalore taluk of Karnataka state".** (Indent No. 35545), the existing Price adjustment Clause 40 and respective sub clauses have been deleted and all other conditions remain same.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, CNNL.,
ಮಾಸಸಂ/ಓಪಸಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/164/2021-22 **Yagachi Project Division, Belur**

e-mail: eerwsskld@gmail.com, eerwss_kld@nic.in, Phone No: 06670-230784

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISON, BHAWANIPATNA

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e - TENDERING

Bid Identification No- 18/EE/RWSS/ 2021-22 /Bpt Dated.18.06.2021

O-351

01. Name of the work :- As per ANNEXURE - A

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only.		Date of opening (Technical Bid)
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	18/EE/ RWSS/2021-22 /Bpt Dated-18.06.2021	25.06.2021 10.00 AM	15.07.2021 05.30 PM	16.07.2021 10.00 AM onwards

Cost of tender paper to be made online payment system.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tenderodisha.gov.in.
The original documents should be scanned and uploaded.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna **OIPR-25005/11/0011/2122**

TAMIL NADU FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Directorate, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL TENDER - NOTICE NO: 01 / 2021

Separate sealed tenders are invited directly from reputed manufacturers or from their authorized distributors / dealers for the following item:-

Description of the item	Quantity	EMD amount in (Rs.)
Aerial Ladder Platform of not less than 54 meter in height	2	24,00,000/-

For more details of the tender such as Tender document fees, mode of EMD Payment, specifications etc. and to download the tender documents, please visit **"https://www.tnfrs.tn.gov.in"** and the tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost from the Department website:

1.	The last date and time for sale of Tender documents	**03.08.2021 at 12.00 hours**
2.	The last date and time for receipt of all tenders	**03.08.2021 at 14.00 hours**
3.	Date and time for opening of the Tender Documents	**03.08.2021 at 14.30-15.00 hours**

Tender Inviting Authority /
Deputy Director (Administration) (Full Additional Charge)
Directorate of Fire and Rescue Services, Tamil Nadu
Contact Phone no. 044-28554309 Exn - 126

Place : Chennai-8.
Date : 17.06.2021 DIPR / 1799 / TENDER / 2021

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SINDHANUR-584128

Dist. Raichur, Ph. : 08535-221480, 222233,
E-mail : itstaff_ulb_sindhanur@yahoo.co.in Web site: www.sindhanurcity.mrc.gov.in

No: CMC/ENG/E-TENDER/01/2020-21 Date: 17.06.2021

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender are invited from eligible bidders for Development of SWM Site (RCC Drain, CC Road, Compound wall, Shed and Electrical Works) In Sindhanur Municipal Limit. (DMA/2021-22/OW/WORK_INDENT116798) of Rs. **137.75** Lakhs KW-4 under Two cover bid system through E-Procurement Portal of government of Karnataka.

1) Tender document maybe down load from E-Procurement portal of the government of Karnataka from Date: 17.06.2021 To 05.07.2021 Time: 4-30 PM. 2) Tender Pre Bid Meeting on Date: 01.07.2021 Time:12-00 PM, 3) Tender must be submitted online through E-Procurement portal on or before 05.07.2021 Time: 4-30 PM, 4) Tender technical bid will be opened on : 06.07.2021 Time: 4-45 PM, 5) Tender Financial bid will be opened on 09.07.2021 Time: 11-00 AM.

Further information may be obtained from above office and WWW.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also from this office website WWW.sindhanurcity.mrc.gov.in.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC Sindhanur.

DIP/Raichur/148/MC&A/2021-22

Indian Overseas Bank

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH

3rd Floor, Annexe Building, Central Office, 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002, Ph: 2854 9143, Email: iob1535@iob.in

e-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

[Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s) **M/s.Bharani Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.** represented by its Directors Mr.B.N.Srinivasa, Mr.B.L.Narappa, Mr.B.R.Naresh Babu and Mr.B.N.Ragavendra Babu, Chamrajpet (Near T.A.P.C.M.S.), Chickballapur - 562 101 Karnataka and **M/s.Sri Vasavi Agencies** represented by its partners Mr.B.N.Srinivasa and Mr.B.L.Narappa, Chamrajpet (Near T.A.P.C.M.S.), Chickballapur - 562 101 Karnataka and **Guarantors: 1) Mr.B.N.Srinivas 2) B.L.Narappa 3)B.R.Naresh 4)B.N.Raghavendra 5)Narasimha Murthy 6) Munuraju and 7)K M Venkata Krishna** that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive possession** of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor, **will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is" on 13.07.2021** for recovery of **Rs.37,94,53,586/-** (Rupees Thirty Seven Crores Ninety Four Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Six only) **as on 31.05.2021** due to the **Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor from the **borrower (s) M/s.Bharani Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.** represented by its Directors Mr.B.N.Srinivasa, Mr.B.L.Narappa, Mr.B.R.Naresh Babu and Mr.B.N.Ragavendra Babu, Chamrajpet (Near T.A.P.C.M.S.), Chickballapur-562 101 Karnataka and **M/s.Sri Vasavi Agencies** represented by its partners Mr.B.N.Srinivasa and Mr.B.L.Narappa, Chamrajpet (Near T.A.P.C.M.S.), Chickballapur-562 101 Karnataka and **Guarantors: 1) Mr. B.N.Srinivas 2) B.L.Narappa 3)B.R.Naresh 4) B.N.Raghavendra 5) Narasimha Murthy 6) Munuraju and 7) K M Venkata Krishna.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Item No.1: All that Piece and parcel of **house property** situated at **Visweswaraya Extension, 6th Division, Visveswaraiah Extension, Chikkaballapur Town,** bearing Mun No.766/21, Khatha No.1434 Asses No.1289/21 measuring 30' X 51' feet measuring **1530 sqft in the name of Mr. B.N.Narasimhamurthy.**

Item No.2: All that Piece and parcel of **house property** situated at **Visweswaraya Extension. 6th Division, Visveswaraiah Extension, Chikkaballapur Town,** bearing Mun No.766/20, Khatha No.1433 Assess No.1288/20 measuring 30' X 51' feet measuring **1530 sqft in the name of Mr. B.N.Narasimhamurthy.**

Reserve Price: Rs.1,61,00,000/-; EMD (10% of Reserve Price) **: Rs.16,10,000/-;** Bid Increment: **Rs.1,00,000/-**

Item No.3: All that piece and parcel of property bearing **New No.286, previous No.747/242, Assessment No.293, 1912.50 Sq.Ft Situated at Huvina Dasappa Beedhi, Karakanapet, Chikkaballapur Town, in the name of Mr. B.N.Narasimamoorthy**

Reserve Price: Rs.81,00,000/-; EMD (10% of Reserve Price) **: Rs.8,10,000/-;** Bid Increment: **Rs.1,00,000/-**

Item No.4: All that Piece and parcel of **house property** siuated at **Kandawarapet, Kandawarabagilu, Chickballapur Town and District**, bearing Assessment No.289, New No:361/324 & **2400 Sq.Ft in the name of Mr. K.M.Venkatakrishnappa alias K.M.V Krishnappa**

Reserve Price: Rs.96,00,000/-; EMD (10% of Reserve Price) **: Rs.9,60,000/-;** Bid Increment: **Rs.1,00,000/-**

***Bank's dues have priority over the statutory Dues**

Last Date & Time for EMD remittance and submission of online tender: **12.07.2021 before 4.00 p.m**

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 13.07.2021, Between 11:00 a.m. and 03:00 p.m. with auto extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed at the platform of **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ ibapi.**

Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties 06.07.2021, Between 11.00 a.m and 02.00 p.m

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the service providers link or bank Website: **1. https://ibapi.in 2. www.iob.in**

Note: In compliance with Section 194IA and section 194 O of the Income Tax Act,1961, the successful bidder shall be pay the applicable TDS.

Place: Chennai
Date : 19.06.2021

Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

This may also be treated as a Notice under 8(6) & 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about holding of e-auction on the above mentioned date.

Government of Karnataka

(Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION YADGIR – 585202

No.EE/RWS&SD/YDG/JJM TENDER/2021-22/335 Date: 18-06-2021

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION-CALL-3

The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Yadgir here by invites separate Technical & Financial Bid Tender on behalf Hon'ble Governor Karnataka from the eligible civil contractor for works approved under JAL JEEVAN MISSION – 2020-21 details as below.

1) Works details:- 1) RAMASAMUDRA - Est Cost Rs.313.00 lakhs- Indent No.32755 & 2) HALIGERA- Est Cost Rs.259.00 lakhs- Indent No.27532 in YADGIR TQ, 2) Eligibility of Contractors : Class-II and Above, 3) Date of Commencement of downloading of bidding document Date: 21-06-2021 to 29-06-2021, 4) Cost of Tender form and EMD : as per e-Procurement, 5) Pre Bid Meeting Date: 24-06-2021 & Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division Yadgir at 11.00 am , 6) Last Date to Submit bids on e-portal : Date: 29-06-2021 before 4.30 pm, 7) Opening of Technical Bid:Date: 30-06-2021 after 5.00 pm, 8) Opening of Financial Bid : Date: 02-07-2021 after 11.00 am. 9) For more information contact Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division Near Railway Station Yadgir. 10) web site: http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and should be submitted through e-Procurement system only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division Yadgir.

DIP/Yadgiri/71/MC&A/2021-22

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC, Lalbagh Road,
73, 1st Floor, Lalbagh Road,Sudhamnagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
Tel: 080-22114022,Email ID: sbi.40690@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/s**1) Sri. B.P.Shashikumar S/o** Sri. B.Puttakrishnappa, Basetti halli, Sidlaghatta Taluk. Kolar District-562105. **2) Sri. B.P.Shashikumar** S/o Sri. B.Puttakrishnappa, #902, 17th Cross, 29th Main, D Group Layout, Bangalore-560091. **3) Sri. B.P.Shashikumar** S/o Sri. B.Puttakrishnappa, Site No.31, Katha No.562, Formed Sy,No. 20/1, Near Venkateshwara Engineer College, Bharathi Nagar, Kadiganahalli, Jala Hobli, Bangalore-560000. **(Borrower).** Have defaulted in the repayment of prinicipal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-performing Assets(NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assests and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses/unknown addresses, but they have been returned unserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers	Details of Properties/ Address of Security Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice	Date of NPA	Amount out-standing (01.05.2021)
1	**Sri.B.P.Shashikumar** S/o Sri. B.Puttakrishnappa.	**Part – I:** All that part and parcel of the Property bearing Vacant Site No.31, bearing Katha No.562, Measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, formed in Sy.No.20/1 of Kadiganahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk Bangalore. Standing in the name of Sri. B.P.Shashikumar S/o Sri. B. Putta krishnappa. Bounded By: East:- Site No. 32.West:- Site No. 30.North:- Road. South:- Site No. 27.	**07.05.2021**	01.05.2021	**Rs. Rs. 7,22,564/- +Interest (Rupees Seven Lack Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Four Only +Interest) as on 01/05/2021.** You are also liable to pay interest at the contractual rate from 01/05/2021 on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and /or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002.

The borrower attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sd/-Authorised Officer & Chief Manager
State Bank of India,
RACPC Lalbagh Road, Bengaluru

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 18.06.2021

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Assets Central Processing Centre, Yelahanka(18994)
No.5/1, Prestige Star Building I Floor, Ring Road, Near Mother Dairy,
Yelahanka Newtown, Bengaluru-560065 Tel:080-29720743/45/49, Email ID:sbi.18994@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, RACPC, Yelahanka, Bengaluru under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following borrowers/ guarantors/ Mortgagors & Legal heirs of the deceased borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with future interest togetehr with incidental expenses, cost , charges etc within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower hereunder.

1. Name of the Borrowers : **Sri.S. Dinesh Kumar** S/o Sri. Sundaram Espari, **Smt.Meera V** w/o Sri. S Dinesh Kumar
Demand Notice date : 25.01.2021 **A/c No.HL 37455641171**
Loan Outstanding amount as per demand notice:Rs.41,22,143/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Three Only) as on 15.01.2021 with future interest at contractual rate from 16.01.2021 together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.
Possession Taken date : 16.06.2021
Loan Outstanding amount :Rs. 42,50,027/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Fifty Thousand Twenty Seven Only) as on 13.06.2021 and further interest at contractual rate from 14.06.2021 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. thereon.
Description of the immovable property: SCHEDULE – A: All that piece and parcel Residentially Converted Land bearing Sy. No.32/3B, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Khata No.672/32/3B, measuring 16.04 Guntas (converted for the larger extent vide Official Memorandum dated 16/12/2002, bearing No. BDS.ALN.SR(NA)148/2002-03, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore) situated at Sampigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore with all rights appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the East by : Remaining portion of Sy. No.32/3B; West by: Remaining portion of Sy. No.32/3B; North by : Private Property; South by :32 feet Wide Road;
SCHEDULE – B Property above referred to: 306 Sq. feet of undivided right, title, interest in the SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY.
SCHEDULE –C: Residential Flat No.003, in Ground Floor, measuring a super built up area of 990 sq. feet, consisting of Two Bedrooms, constructed with RCC Roofing, Vitrified tiles flooring along with one covered Car Parking Space, including proportionate share in in common areas such as passages, lifts, lobbies, stair case standing jointly in the names of Mr. Dinesh Kumar. S. S/o Mr. E. Sundaram and Mrs. Meera. V w/o Mr. Dinesh Kumar S in the apartment known as "**S.L.V. GRAND"** constructed on the Schedule A Property.

2. Name of the Borrower : Sri.K.Ashwath Narayana S/o Sri.Krishnappa
Guarantor : Sri. Venkatesh S/o Doddamuniswamappa
Demand Notice date : 11.12.2020 **A/c No.HL 65149121911 & Suraksha 65151893962**
Paper publication: " The New Indian Express and Samyuktha Karnataka" on 16.01.2021
Loan Outstanding amount as per demand notice :Rs.8,59,544/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Forty Four Only) as on 08.12.2020., with future interest at contractual rate from 09.12.2020 together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.
Possession Taken date : 16.06.2021
Loan Outstanding amount : **Rs. 8,96,177/-** (Rupees Eight Lakh Ninety Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy Seven Only) as on 13.06.2021 and further interest at contractual rate from 14.06.2021 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. thereon.
Description of the immovable property: ITEM NO.1: All that piece and parcel of Site No.222, bearing BBMP Khatha No.222, situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently coming under BBMP Limits measuring East to West: 33.5 ft and North to South: 11 ½ ft, totally measuring 385.25 Sq.ft, with building thereon standing in the name of Sri.K.Ashwath Narayana S/o Sri.Krishnappa and bounded on: East by: Passage, West by: House belonging to Krishnappa, North by:House belonging to Shamanna, South by: Passage
ITEM NO.2: All that piece and parcel of Residential Site bearing No.223, CMC Khatha No.223, coming under Byatarayanapura BBMP Limits situated at Ward No.8, Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 32 ft and North to South: 22 ft, totally measuring 704 Sq.ft, with building thereon standing in the name of Sri.K.Ashwath Narayana S/o Sri.Krishnappa and bounded on: East by: 5 feet Road, West by: Property belonging to Chikkapaiah, North by:Property belonging to Ramaswamy, South by: Property belonging to Krishnappa and passage.

3. Name of the Legal Heirs of the borrower Late N.Manjunath S/o G.Narayana Reddy : Smt. Yasodha W/o Late N Manjunath – wife, **Ms. Keerthana** D/o. Late N Manjunath – Daughter , **Mr. Lalith Kishor** S/o. Late N Manjunath – Minor Son, represented by Minor by Guardian, mother Smt. Yashodha
Guarantor: Sri.M.Surendra S/o Munirathnam Naidu
Demand Notice date : 14.12.2020 **A/c No.HL 54010038952**
Loan Outstanding amount as per demand notice :Rs.5,61,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Sixty One Thousand Only) as on 09.12.2020 with future interest at contractual rate from 10.12.2020 together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc
Possession Taken date : 16.06.2021
Loan Outstanding amount : **Rs.5,95,760/-** (Rupees Five Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Only Only) as on 13.06.2021 and further interest at contractual rate from 14.06.2021 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc thereon.
Description of the immovable property: All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No.D-81 Municipal Assessment Katha No.643 Situated at Kogilu Road (Prakruthinagar), Yelahanka City Municipal Limit, Bangalore NorthTaluk, measuring East to West: 30-0 (Thirty) feet, North to South:40-0 (Forty) feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.Ft. with building there on standing in the name of Late N Manjunath S/o G Narayana Reddy and bounded on the : EAST BY : Site No. D-80, WEST BY : Site No.D-82, NORTH BY : Site No.D-69, SOUTH BY: 40 Feet Road.

The above mentioned borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors/legal heirs of the deceased borrower having failed to repay the amount as mentioned in the Demand notices, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/ guarantors/Mortgagors/legal heirs of the deceased borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of State of India RACPC, Yelahanka, Bengluru has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on above mentioned date.

The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors/legal heirs of the deceased borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge **of the State Bank of India,** for amount mentioned against their names with further interest at contractual rate with incidential expenses,cost, charges charges etc., thereon.

The borrowers/guaranotors/mortgagers/legal heirs of the deceased borrower attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date :16.06.2021
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
RACPC, Yelahanka Bengaluru

Kerala Congress president K Sudhakaran has denied the allegation that he had plotted to kidnap Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's children and clarified that the original remarks were part of an 'off-the-record' conversation with the reporter of the vernacular weekly which published his interview

HITTING WHERE IT HURTS

POOR, MIDDLE INCOME GROUPS BEAR BRUNT OF PRICE HIKE IN FACE OF SALARY CUTS, JOB LOSSES

TEAM TNIE

IF Covid-19 has wreaked havoc on the health front, inflation and the resulting hike in prices of essential commodities in the face of salary cuts and job losses have dealt a double blow for the common man, especially those from the middle and lower-middle income groups and below poverty line (BPL) segments of society. Adding to the worries is the rising fuel prices — petrol breaching the Rs 100/litre-mark for the very first time and diesel creeping up, at over Rs 92 per litre in most places across the state.

The price hike is forcing people to shrink diets and reduce the use of daily essentials at a time when robust nutrition should be the priority to boost immunity in the light of the current pandemic.

A daily wager's family earns up to Rs 10,000-12,000 a month and their monthly expenses would be Rs 3,000-4,000 even after getting PDS ration. But now they have to spend about Rs 7,000 and many are struggling to eke out a living, with no savings.

Yellappa Bhajantri, a daily wager from Hulkoti in Gadag district, says, "Last year, dal was Rs 90 per kg and now the price jumped to Rs 170-plus, based on quality. As fuel prices increased, other items have also become more expensive. Our family monthly earning was Rs 15,000 before the lockdown, but now, for the last two months, our income is zero."

Those who ate leafy vegetables are now settling for cheaper grains, and a majority who earlier used refined cooking oil are settling for cheaper palm oil, which doctors have discouraged, considering its adverse effects the coronary, vascular and cardiac health. Those from under-privileged sections, who normally consume boiled rice, are opting for lower quality rice through the public distribution system.

Nagalingaiah Mathapati, a small farmer from Venkatbennur village in Kalaburagi district, earlier spent Rs 4,000-Rs 5,000 a month on groceries; now the expenses have gone up to Rs 8,000-Rs 10,000. He is forced to use palm oil (Rs 120 per litre) as the cost of refined sunflower oil that he used daily has now jumped to over Rs 180 per litre. He is also using lower grade quality of tur dal.

For most BPL families, survival has become a challenge due to the hike in prices of essential commodities.

Suma, a homemaker in Kolar, is finding it extremely difficult to maintain the household budget with prices of groceries shooting up, particularly that of cooking oil, which is being sold at Rs 163 per litre, whereas last year, it was Rs112. Her husband works as a clerk in a private school, which has cut his salary by 50 per cent. Considering children's education and medical expenses, and left with no other option, her husband has cancelled the life insurance policy and withdrawn the amount to supplement expenses.

Yashvanth Pai, who works with a private enterprise in Manipal, says price rise has pulverized his family budget. "As I faced a 30 per cent salary cut during the lockdown period, I am extra cautious while shopping. I have stopped buying sunflower oil and shifted to rice bran oil, which is available at Rs 160 per litre against Rs 180 for sunflower oil. I did not analyse its impact on health. Sometimes, it is inevitable that we adapt to situations," he says.

BIG PICTURE

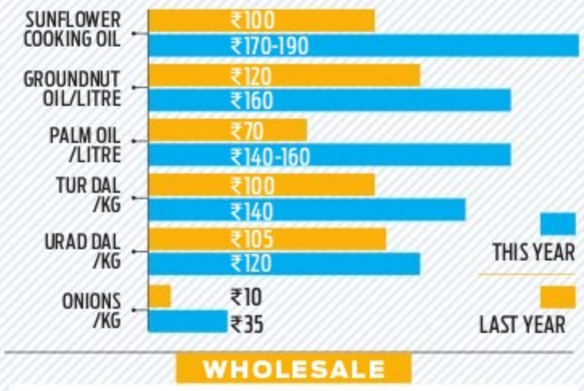
Madikeri homemaker Ashwini AS is not willing to compromise on health matters. "The price of edible oil was Rs 90 per litre a few months ago. It is Rs 190 now. But I cannot shift to other types of cooking oil as I fear its impact on health," she says. "The middle class has been badly affected by the price hike. I have to spend over Rs 3,000-plus monthly on electricity bills. People are struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic. Instead of being supportive, the government is hiking prices of essentials."

She feels it has made life miserable for the three segments. "Farmers are not benefiting from the price hike and neither are customers. It looks like only the government and brokers are benefiting from it," she rued.

Meanwhile, wholesalers and merchants associations' members have blamed the price hike on bulk buying and stocking by large retail chains. They say small retail stores did not increase prices drastically as compared to the big chain stores. "Since large retail chains had purchased in bulk from millers and stocked up, they had to hike prices to make ends meet. But the small retailers who purchase from wholesalers periodically have not hiked it that much. The large brands had hiked the rates from about 10 per cent to 20-25 per cent. For instance, one kg of tur dal, costing Rs 90-105, was hiked to Rs 120-140," pointed out a trader.

COMPARATIVE PRICES

NOW AND A YEAR AGO (RETAIL)



WHOLESALE

TUR DAL: May — ₹95-115; June — ₹ 90-105

FRIED GRAM : May — ₹70- 80; June — ₹60-70

The price of cooking and refined oils had escalated in the last six months from Rs 80 to Rs 180 per litre. Now, however, it is stabilising at Rs160 a litre. In the last four months, it increased by Rs 20. The reason for the hike is because import was less. Palm oil comes from Malaysia, sunflower oil from Chicago and other places. There was also a price rise from wholesale to retail by Rs 10-20, depending on the type of store

R Manohar, president, Bengaluru Oil Seeds Merchants Association, and head of oil traders association

Prices of fruits and vegetables have increased by Rs 10-15 per kg because of the lockdown, inadequate availability of mass transport to get items like onions from Maharashtra and carrots from Ooty. Due to shortage of labour in rural areas, procurement became difficult leading to price rise. Now, with the monsoon season, procurement will again become difficult, and the cost of items could rise further

Umesh Mirji, Managing Director, Hopcoms

VEGETABLES

(By Hopcoms as on June 16 in Rs per kg)

Beans	75
Brinjal	54
Cucumber	42
Capsicum	48
Green Chillies	42
Carrot Ooty	82
Coconut (big)	36
Potato	32
Tomato	11
Onion	35
Sambar onion	65

WITH INPUTS FROM
Bosky Khanna; M G Chetan; Prajna G R; Divya Cutinho; Arpitha I; Prakash Samaga; Ajith M S; V Velayudham; Mallikarjun Hiremath; Sunil S Patil and Raghu Koppar

EXPRESS READ

European varsity honour for ex-minister Shailaja

T'Puram: Former health minister K K Shailaja has been chosen for the Central European University Open Society Prize in recognition of her commitment to public health services. The award, the highest civilian recognition by the university, is awarded annually to persons of exceptional distinction who serve society. Past recipients of the award include scientific philosopher Karl Popper, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Czech President and playwright Vaklav Howell and economist Joseph Stiglitz. **ENS**

Aisha Sultana to appear before police today

Kochi: Filmmaker Aisha Sultana will appear before Kavaratti police for interrogation in the sedition case booked against her, on Sunday. The Kavaratti police had booked the case based on a complaint filed by BJP Lakshadweep state president for a comment made during a media discussion. She had said that the Union government has used a bioweapon against the residents of Lakshadweep by easing Covid restrictions. Aisha arrived in Kavaratti on Saturday evening. "I have not said anything against the country and I believe that I will get justice, " she said while speaking to mediapersons here before leaving for Lakshadweep on Saturday. **ENS**

Vandalur Zoo to test all lions for CDV infection

Chennai: Leaving nothing to chance, the Arignar Anna Zoological Park is planning to test all the Asiatic lions for Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) and has procured 50 imported vaccines to cover all the big cats in the park. So far, two lions from the park had tested positive for the CDV. The nine-year-old lioness, Neela, and 19-year-old Raghav had contracted the virus. Based on the available evidence, Neela died more due to Covid, while Raghav, who tested negative for Covid, is normal and is exhibiting no typical severe symptoms of CDV, like muscle twitching, seizures etc. Another lion, Pathbanathan, had died of Covid, earlier this week. **ENS**

Price hike due to enterprises making up for losses, says economist

RAMU PATIL @ BENGALURU

INFLATION is the expected outcome after the economy collapses as enterprises try to make good their losses incurred during the lockdown by increasing prices, Professor RS Deshpande, Visiting Professor, Institute for Social & Economic Change (ISEC) and former director, Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics, explains.

"After the lockdown, many enterprises incurred severe losses and now, they have to make up for it. This is exactly the market situation today. The business losses are being made good by enterprises," he said.

There are many factors for the price rise, including input costs, fuel price increase, but the major problem is the attempt to manoueuvre the market, he said. "Since my first work in 1974, I found that the only beneficiaries in the entire economy are the middlemen. This is the situation even now."

However, according to him, an increase in commodity prices in the international market is not a factor for the increase in prices of essential commodities like cooking oil, as markets are not completely integrated.

Prof Deshpande said there will be huge inflation and it will come down after consumer demand contracts. "The moment consumers squeeze their demand, like buying only two litres of oil instead of five, the prices are likely to slide down," he said.

According to him, the government cannot do much. "We have accepted the policy of open market in 1991 and not controlling commodity prices. We cannot control it now. Inflation has been our companion right from Independence. The government cannot do anything unless it brings in stringent control by way of some taxation policy. But that is difficult," he feels.

Apart from inflation, gross capital formation in the household sector is likely to come down significantly.

"There was no income for several months and people used their savings. Now, when they start getting income, they need to first fulfill the earlier requirements, so there will be a squeeze on savings. Savings in the household sector, which was around 30 per cent a year back, will drop by around 3-5 per cent. If savings come down, investment in the domestic sector too will come down," he noted.

MiG-21s not flying coffins, but will be phased out: IAF chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

FOLLOWING the crash of the third MiG-21 Bison aircraft this year at Moga, Punjab, which resulted in the death of an Indian Air Force pilot, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on Saturday said that a plan was in place to phase out the ageing fleet of the aircraft and substitute them with modern fighter jets. However, he added that these MiG-21s were not 'flying coffins' and in fact, every plane at the academy was 'fit to fly'.

The IAF chief said that by 2022, except for one or two aircraft, the induction of 36 Rafale fighter jets would be completed. "It (indiction process) is absolutely on target. Minor delays might happen because of the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Bhadauria was speaking at the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of the Air Force Academy at Dundigal, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, to mark the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of flight cadets of various branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The IAF chief also briefed the media on the induction timeline of Rafale fighter jets into the Air Force and the progressing situation in Eastern Ladakh on the Indo-China border.

On being asked by *Express* about the phasing out of MiG-21 Bison aircraft, Bhadauria said, "Every accident is unfortunate and we have taken a lot of preventive steps to curb them. Coming to MiG-21, every plane has its life, but it is not that towards the end of its life it becomes accident-prone just because of its age. There is a training and maintenance methodology. However, I am not saying age doesn't make a difference. At present, one of the concerns is why we don't stop flying the MiG 21s immediately. But that is not the answer, as every fleet will come to this stage at some or the other time."

A total of 161 cadets got commissioned at the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal near Hyderabad on Saturday | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

At the CGP, which saw the commissioning of 161 new officers into the IAF, Bhadauria conferred the 'President's Commission' to the graduating officers. The ceremony witnessed the presentation of 'wings' and 'brevets' to the newly commissioned officers.

The IAF chief also awarded wings to officers of the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard on successful completion of their flying training at the Air Force Academy.

The event also showcased an aerobatic display by the famous Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team, Sarang Helicopter Display Team, Pilatus PC-7 trainer and para jumping by the Akash Ganga Team.

Every accident is unfortunate and we have taken a lot of preventive steps to curb them. Coming to MiG-21, every plane has its life, but it is not that towards the end of its life it becomes accident-prone just because of its age
— Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of Air Staff

BOARD DECISION

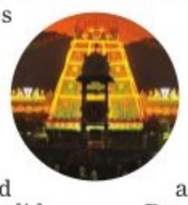
TTD to regularise its contract staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tirumala

THE Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has decided to regularise the services of contract employees within 90 days. A decision to this effect was taken at the meeting of TTD Trust Board held under the chairmanship of YV Subba Reddy on Saturday.

A committee has been formed to chalk out modalities to regularise the services of contract employees. Briefing mediapersons about the decisions taken by the TTD after the last meeting of the present Trust Board, Subba Reddy, whose tenure as the chairman ends later this month, said regularisation of services of Potu workers and other contract employees was a long-pending demand. "The issue has been taken to the notice of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and a final decision will be taken in this regard by October," he said.

He thanked the Chief Minister for reposing faith in him and all the members of the Trust Board, TTD officials, employees and others for their cooperation, which helped him implement some innovative measures for the benefit of pilgrims during his tenure as chairman. Though the TTD faced hard times due to the Corona-19 pandemic for the past one and a half years, it has taken up several development works, he said.



Subba Reddy stated that the first thing they did after assuming charge was to give priority to common pilgrims by limiting categories of L1, L2 and L3 in the VIP Break Darshan System. Usage of plastic was completely banned to make the hill shrine a plastic-free zone. To ward off the ill effects of Covid, the TTD had taken up several spiritual programmes in the last 14 months at Nada Neerajanam Mandapam at Tirumala, which were telecast live on Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC). "We are confident that with the blessings of Lord Venkateswara, we will achieve victory over this virus and normalcy will return at the earliest," he said.

The TTD Chairman said though the Trust Board thought of completing construction of 500 temples with the help of Samarsta Foundation and the Endowments Department in the last two years, works could not be taken up due to lockdown.

Subba Reddy said the Gudiko Gomata programme initiated by the TTD has become a huge success and till date 100 temples across the State have been provided cows free of cost and 40 more applications are still pending.

Telangana lifts lockdown

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

THE lockdown in Telangana has been completely lifted with immediate effect, while all categories of educational institutions will be reopened from July 1. The State Cabinet, which held an emergency meeting under the chairmanship of K Chandrasekhar Rao on Saturday, took these decisions. The Health officials informed the Cabinet that the number of Covid-19 cases had reduced considerably in the State and the positivity rate was currently very low. Thus, after imposing varying degrees of lockdown for a total of 38 days, it was decided to completely do away with it. All restrictions imposed during the lockdown will no longer be valid.

It was noted that the number of Covid-19 cases were also on a decline across the country.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to the information of the General public that my client **SMT. Y. SNEHALATHA** W/o Late Y. Sreeramalu, residing at No. 16, 7th Main, 80 feet Road, Kalyananagar, Bangalore 560 043 intends to purchase the Schedule Property from SRI. S. RAGHU S/o Y.R. Srinivasa, residing No 1186, old middle School Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560 084.

Any person having any objection regarding the said sale transaction may contact the undersigned advocate with relevant documents within 15 days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and my client will complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the portion of Sy. No. 113/3, situated at Mahadevakodigehalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to west 72 feet, North to south 91 feet, includes 23 feet wide road towards Eastern side (totally measuring 6552 Sq.ft., or (app. 06 guntas) and bounded on the East by site private property, West by private property, North by private property, South by remaining portion of same Sy No. 113/3.

Sd/- **M.V. Narayanaswami**, Advocate, No.4/1, 2nd Cross, 7th Main, PNS Layout, Subbanapalya New Exten, Kalyananagar, Bangalore -560033. Ph. 9845846694, 9632666566
Email:mvnarayanaswamy66@gmail.com
Date: 20-06-2021

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION VIZAG

'e' Procurement Tender Notice No.40/2021-22/SE(Mech)/EE(Mech)/DB/GVMC, Dt:15-06-2021

01.Number of Works	: 2 Nos
02.Value of Works (ECV)	: Rs.329.34 Lakhs
03.Down Loading Starting Date	: 18-06-2021 @ 03.00 PM
04.Down Loading Ending Date	: 03-07-2021 @ 03.00 PM
05.Last date of bid submission	: 03-07-2021 @ 04.00 PM
06.Date of PQ Opening	: 03-07-2021 @ 05.00 PM
07.Date of Commercial Opening	: 06-07-2021 @ 01.30 PM
08. Date of TQ Opening	: 09-07-2021 @ 05.00 PM

Note: For any other details required in respect of above tender notice, please contact **EE(Mech)** before applying for tender schedules and visit vsp @ www.apeprocurement.gov.in **SE(Mech)**

"I think there's a difference between God and religion

Sinéad O'Connor

30 YEARS AFTER 1991, LIBERALISATION 2.0 NEEDED

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

JUNE 20, 1991. Quintessentially in India's political landscape, activity picks up after sundown. P V Narasimha Rao, anointed prime minister, had finished meeting with the new pilgrims lining up to pay obeisance. His next caller was Cabinet Secretary Naresh Chandra. After the perfunctory pondering about the swearing in ceremony the next day, Chandra handed over a file to Rao with two notes on the state of the economy — the significant one was about the commitment India made on 25 conditions (1991 Conditionalities http://bit.ly/29SFW0q) under the January 18 IMF bailout signed during the Chandra Shekhar regime.

The magnitude of the crisis in the economy was exposed in this newspaper on July 8, 1991 when I scooped the airlift of India's gold reserves to be pledged with the Bank of England. The saga of liberalisation is frequently enveloped in mythical notions — about who did what, when and how. On July 24, Rao, who retained the industry portfolio, dismantled licence raj India and honoured the promissory note issued to IMF. In his budget speech, Manmohan Singh quoted Victor Hugo: 'No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come.' It was not voluntary action, but the compelling power of crisis which propelled change.

In 1991, India's population was 83.8 crore. In 2021, it is estimated at 139 crore. Effectively four of ten Indians, or 55 crore Indians scarcely know of an India which existed in perpetual want — when people waited for years for a phone, LPG connection and even a scooter. Today, the Aadhaar-based digital infrastructure enables Indians to get a phone connection or open a bank account in minutes. In 1991, India pledged gold for a $ 400 million loan. In 2021, it has over $600 billion in reserves.

Relative to its past, India has done well — from sub 5 per cent growth pre-reforms to an average of 7-plus per cent GDP growth. Since reforms, India's GDP has vaulted ten times from $270 billion to over $2.7 trillion and its per capita income from $303 to $2,000. However, relative to other countries, India has lagged. China opened up its economy roughly the same time as India. Between 1991 and 2019, China's GDP has grown from $383 billion to over $14 trillion and its per capita income from $333 to over $10,200.

Economic growth is sustained by the virtuous cycle of income-consumption-demand-investment-growth. India has struggled to enable investment — indeed, it could be argued that deterred investment results in a large part of its consumption demand being exported. Structurally speaking, decentralisation accelerates processes yet India has persisted with a centralised system that suffers from bipolar disorder of authority and accountability.

And this is worsened by the regulatory landscape. In theory, India dismantled licence raj but permission raj persists. Successive governments have shied away from reviewing the process of clearances. For sure, India has moved up on ease of doing business rankings but the question remains why must a power project wade through over 90 clearances or a hotel project need over 100. Small and medium enterprises are the bulwark of employment and exports but suffer from over regulation and under provision of capital.

Attracting foreign savings is critical for building infrastructure and economic expansion — as Deng Xiaoping famously said, the colour of a cat doesn't matter as long as it catches mice. India's policy on foreign direct investment has been defined less by objectives and more by crises. This has detained expansion in the areas where access to capital and technology could have made India a dominant player — for instance in electronics and computer hardware.

Growth at a macro level is but a means to achieve ends. No country has progressed without investing in human development and yet India has struggled to up the spending on education and health. For sure, China is enabled by the authoritarian system whereas India is a vocal democracy. Yet the fact is the authoritarian state has done better on every human development indicator. China is ranked 85 and India 131 among 189 countries by the UN HDR. The number of years of schooling and access to health matters for sustaining and propelling growth.

The defining factor in success is a sense of political purpose and efficiency of the state. Three decades after liberalisation, India continues with a ministerial structure designed for state-led industrialisation. Five decades after the first Administrative Reforms Commission, the political economy wrestles with the very same issues which it interrogated in the 1960s.

The Indian state suffers from lop-sided deployment of resources — it does too much of what it must not do and does too little of what it must do. Thirty years back, exactly to the day, the India Story took a definitive turn. To deliver on the promise of its potential, India needs to complete the unfinished agenda — install Gov 2.0 to enable minimum government and maximum governance.

FLABBERGASTED BY INCOMPETENCE

POINT OF VIEW

TJS GEORGE

CONFRONTED with catastrophe, the state has melted away in India. The public, overwhelmed with anguish at death on so vast a scale, has been flabbergasted by repeated revelations of the Government's incompetence."

What devastating words. No one in India would have the courage to be so sharp and specific. The Economist was not only blunt; it published figures Indian authorities seem to hide. According to the Economist's global Covid tracker, India records 6,000 to 31,000 deaths a day (as against the official figure of 4,000). The study suggests that one million people might have already died in India this year. A useful reference point here is the revered Narendra Modi's statement on March 25, 2020: "Victory in the Mahabharata war came in 18 days. Against Covid, it will take 21 days."

Numerous 21-day spells have come and gone, yet the Modi brigade is unaware of the credibility gap it has created. What the Prime Minister says is seen by the people half as propaganda and half as self-praise. Self-absorbed as it is, the BJP passed a resolution in February 2021 which said: "The party unequivocally hails its leadership for introducing India to the world as a proud and victorious nation against Covid."

World opinion be damned. Proud and victorious India has other ways to conquer maladies and threats. Arjun Meghwal (he is a Union minister if you didn't know) put it patriotically when he said: "Eat Bhabhi ji Papad. It will help in the formation of antibodies that are required to fight Corona virus."

The minister must be a shareholder in the papad company. Sheer ignorance can sit on our ministers like a crown. Remember Anurag Thakur declaring (March 17, 2020) that Covid would have no impact on India's economy. By contrast, former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Rawat propounded a profound truth: That Covid virus, too, had a right to live. Indeed, Article 21 of the Constitution gives legal backing to the virus's right to live.

Pious citizens have not only accepted the legal rights of the virus; they have also recognised its divine qualities. "Corona Devi" and "Corona Mata" temples have come up in Uttar Pradesh. (How did they know that Corona was female?) In UP, it's nothing new. But this time, similar temples have come up in Coimbatore and in Karnataka's Madhuvanahalli village also. Is it devotion that is spreading, or fear of the virus? Or, is it merely imitation of the North?

There are wheels within wheels here and that could explain the newfound devotion of some people. A temple that came up in a Pratapgarh village in UP was demolished within days. Villagers said it was razed by the police. The police denied this. According to them, a man collected donations from local residents, appointed a priest and got the temple functioning. It turned out that the temple was built on disputed land and the entire episode was a plot by some to grab that piece of land. The episode fits into our national pattern of using gods for ungodly purposes.

Numerous 21-day spells have come and gone, yet the Modi brigade is unaware of the credibility gap it has created. What the Prime Minister says is seen by the people half as propaganda and half as self-praise

Consider Ajay Mohan Bisht's way of getting God on his side. He would have been, like his brother Mahendra Singh Bisht, in the Indian army, or become a college teacher like his other two brothers. But he ignored his BSc in mathematics, took to saffron clothes and turned himself into Yogi Adityanath. That made him bigger than all others in his family because, as Yogi, he was above everything.

He was above accountability for the destruction he brought to UP. Economically, UP is one of India's most backward states. But that does not bother UP's leaders because politically they are in a dominant position. Covid has brought out the emptiness of UP's politicians. It is the worst affected state and TV screens were filled with pathetic scenes of patients wailing before hospital gates after being denied admission. "Scenes of suffering in India are hard to comprehend," said the prestigious medical journal Lancet. It expressed surprise at "the ineptness of the Modi Government".

The inefficiency of the government is open for the world to see. Cremation ghats in UP were unable to "accommodate" all dead bodies. Burning pyres were lit in open fields. Dead bodies floated down the Ganga. The great Yogi sat in the Chief Minister's august office and said, shamelessly, that the Government had managed to provide adequate medical facilities to citizens.

Why are false gods seated in India's leadership chairs? Have the real gods abandoned our country as a hopeless case? When will they come to our rescue?

SAFFRON DILUTION STOKES DISSENT IN BJP RANKS

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

COMMUNICATION is consolation. But when powerful persons cry foul about the vices of others while trumpeting their own virtues, the tone for prurient power play is set. Normally, power unites. But today's political weather is the BJP's summer of discontent and dissidence. The party, solidly united at the top, is cracking in the middle and lower levels. There is hardly a state where saffron factions aren't engaged in internecine verbal wars. While the central leadership claims that PM Modi has given the nation a clean, stable and strong government, incumbent CMs and regional party chiefs in almost every BJP-ruled state are accused of corruption and nepotism. The party that won the general elections four times over the past two decades and in over two thirds of the states is a goner in the dissonance and defiance department. In Kerala, an FIR was filed against its party chief for bribery, which goes against the Sangh Parivar culture. Rebels are up in arms in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tripura, Delhi and Goa.

The BJP has acquired greater nationwide acceptability in a much shorter period than the Congress, which was rewarded for its role in the Independence struggle. But the BJP won the mandate by offering an alternative agenda, institution and ideology. The Congress started to shrink after it failed to reign in local leaders or denied them their share of federal power. Like an ambitious amoeba, the Congress cloned itself endlessly. The 135-year-old Congress is reduced to a tiny dot as its apostates thrive in different political garbs.

The BJP suffers less from excessive personality clashes than ideological adulteration. It has expanded its footprint through massive mergers and acquisitions of small parties or by inducting avariciously ambitious individuals with a caste/community base. On the face of it, the confrontation in various states is fuelled by prominent factional leaders. But the real reason is the disproportionate indulgence bestowed on defectors from Congress, TMC, BSP, JD(U), etc. Undoubtedly, these political pilgrims from other dispensation added couple of thrones to the BJP's tally of state governments. But they also pierced excruciating thorns into the souls of the faithfuls. Samples of dissidence in a disciplined party:

■ Agitating BJP veteran Kuruba Sharanappa Eshwarappa, former state president and former chief minister, and now a mere minister, has sown chaos in the party. The powerful dyed in the wool leader feels side-lined because Karnataka CM BS Yeddyurappa promotes Congress crossovers and JD(U) runagates. For the first time in BJP's history, a minister has written a formal letter to the Governor alleging chief ministerial corrupt, "I am at pains, to bring to your kind notice, some of the recent actions of our Respected Chief Minister relating to my Department, which amounts to direct interference in the affairs of Ministers in-charge of Departments, in clear violation of Karnataka (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1977 and also against the established practices and procedures relating to the affairs of the State Administration." The MLAs who were ignored to accommodate defectors in the Cabinet have made life difficult for BSY. Despite total support from the Centre, his government is teetering and underperforming due to constant internal threats. A dissident MLA remarked: "Some of them go to Delhi and have stated that this is a government of three parties. Such things would not have happened had the people given a full mandate to the BJP".

■ Uttar Pradesh is in the news not because of a visible revolt against Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Indeed, numerous BJP MLAs have lambasted the deficiency in governance, particularly during the second Covid wave. Some of them have vocalized against caste domination. But the frequent visits of central leaders to Lucknow and holding individual meetings with ministers and MLAs have made the administration vulnerable. During the past two months, both Yogi and prominent state leaders have been visiting Delhi and meeting top leaders, including Modi. The induction of AK Sharma, a retired bureaucrat, in UP politics just a year before the elections has contributed to scuttlebutt about Yogi's authority being curtailed or even his removal. Sharma was Modi's trusted secretary in Gujarat and a key PMO official. The entry pass given to Jitin Prasada, till recently a Rahul Gandhi altar boy, into the BJP is seen as part of a larger strategy to weaken Gorakhpur's Guru. The stakes are high in UP — the outcome of the UP polls could influence the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the complexion of the Rajya Sabha. Yogi is hardly involved in organisational matters. But as the poll countdown has begun, the central leadership seems to be in a haste to billet leaders who are not Yogi supporters. Moreover, the BJP's dismal performance in the panchayat elections has given fodder to dissidents for sniping at the CM.

It is not BJP vs. BJP. The real punch up is between authentic Swayamsewaks and opportunists of the multicolour variety. There is no place for united colours in a monochrome universe of saffron

■ Like in the Congress previously, the battle between pro- and anti-Chief Minister factions has turned Madhya Pradesh into a battleground of betrayal. Shivraj Chouhan could rule Bhopal only after two dozen-odd Congress MLAs led by Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP. While the Yuvraj is yet to become a Union Minister, most of his underlings have been made ministers over original and senior BJP leaders. Narottam Mishra, the Home Minister, was a strong CM contender after masterminding the coup on the Congress government. But he lost out to Chouhan. His supporters were denied Cabinet berths. During the last few weeks, dissidents have been meeting and talking about a leadership change but no support from New Delhi is forthcoming.

■ Tripura and Goa, the smallest states in BJP's fiefdom, are sites of factional fights between original saffronites and quislings. In Tripura, top national leaders had to rush to Agartala to control the dissidence against Biplab Deb who became chief minister after a large number of TMC MLAs joined the BJP. After the ghar wapsi of Mukul Roy to the TMC, his loyalists in the Tripura government are waiting to abandon the BJP. They are mounting pressure on Deb demanding more powers and better portfolios. In Goa, CM Pramod Sawant is being challenged by Health minister Vishwajit Rane. The BJP had formed the government with the help of over a dozen Congress defectors. Vishwajit is the former Congress CM Pratap Singh Rane's son.

And it was an ongoing battle between factions which paralysed the BJP during the pandemic. Both its old or new political guests and believers were conspicuous by their absence in helping the Covid victims. It is evident that the defection game has become counterproductive for the BJP. Over 25 per cent of its sitting MLAs and MPs are turncoats. In Bengal, over 80 per cent of its MLAs received their political baptism in other parties. As more state elections loom in the next two years, the rift and rivalry between various cliques could become deeper. Barring the top leadership, the BJP has undergone massive ideological dilution in its drive to win and retain power at any cost. Compromises with core values will only escalate the tensions within. It is not BJP vs. BJP. The real punch up is between authentic Swayamsewaks and opportunists of the multicolour variety. There is no place for united colours in a monochrome universe of saffron.

QUOTE CORNER

That Ebrahim Raisi has risen to the presidency instead of being investigated for the crimes against humanity of murder, enforced disappearance and torture, is a grim reminder that impunity reigns supreme in Iran

Agnès Callamard, Amnesty chief

There are some people, a lot of people might say, 'I haven't been vaccinated yet because I'm just not sure.' We can say with confidence the vaccines are safe, they are free and they are effective

Kamala Harris, US vice-president

Through their behaviour these soldiers frivolously put the whole Bundeswehr's reputation at risk. These misdeeds will be severely prosecuted and punished, as far as expelling those responsible from the Bundeswehr

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, German Defence Minister

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Save our forests

Karnataka's decision to build a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu is catastrophic. It should come up with alternatives to overcome water scarcity at Bangalore rather than deforesting thousands of hectares of land which is home to endangered and endemic species like grizzled giant squirrel, Deccan Mahseer, Indian Pangolin, and Madras treeshrew. The act to chop down around 10,000 trees and to build the reservoir is disastrous. This may also lead to cutting off elephant corridors and other wildlife routes and give rise to human-animal conflicts. There is a need to call from big names to urge the government to drop this plan.

Nisarga G C, Chitradurga

Inflation worries now

Fuel price increase has a cascading effect to push general prices upwards. Hence, on every fuel price increase, people are making loud hue and cry. But the government does not care about the people. Now, the PM's Economic Advisory Committee has warned the government to reduce the fuel prices since the wholesale price inflation has touched 13% the highest since 2013. A delay in taking action will cause a long recovery process. BJP should remember that when it came to power one of the main agendas was to reduce the inflation. Now the party is pushing the index to the maximum level. It seems all politicians are on the same outlook to pile misery on the poor.

V Venkitasubramanian, Coimbatore

A case of futile controversy

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan made a serious allegation that KPCC chief Sudhakaran had plotted to kidnap his children while they were school students. Sudhakaran had refuted the charge. A lot of things might have happened during their student days. There is no relevance in presenting those things in public especially when we are in a serious crisis now. Serious allegations of illegal felling of trees worth crores of rupees are being overlooked. To divert the attention from such serious problems, such trivial personal matters are purposely given prominence. The leaders should realise that the citizens can't be fooled by such futile controversies.

M Haneef, Kottayam

Patience in time of Corona

This refers to report 'Breach of COVID-19 norms in markets will hasten third wave'. The second wave has just started waning and unlock process is underway in many states. However, it seems that the public has once again lulled into complacency by circumventing the COVID protocols. The second wave has been a precedent of the perils and lethality of the pandemic, wherein nearly every family has lost their loved ones. Many families are still languishing and are adversely hit mentally and financially. No one is oblivious of the deplorable sights that played out at hospitals and crematoriums. Such casual behaviour by the people is unpalatable.

Aanya Singhal, Noida

Come clean on NEET decision

This is with reference to 'Students should prepare for NEET this year: Minister' (June 19). The TN health minister told the students that they should prepare for the NEET. It was the same DMK which declared in its election manifesto that swift measures would be taken to scrap the NEET on assuming power. But the health minister's opinion instigates many questions on the government's stand. Without much delay, it should come up with a clear decision on NEET examination.

M Rishidev, Dindigul

Legends never die

The iconic athlete, who got the title 'The Flying Sikh' from Pakistan President General Ayub Khan, is no more. Milkha Singh brought laurels to India at a time when we had very little resources to spend on sports. Singh saw his parents getting killed in front of his eyes and refused to be in Lahore but still agreed on the personal request from Nehru. May he live in the hearts of every Indian.

N Nagarajan, Secunderabad

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
One can't prevent politicians from pursuing political goals, even though the double standards involved are reprehensible

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat @gssjodhpur
The seven years of the Narendra Modi sarkar is the story of evolution — the evolution of a new India

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
1 week since story broke of unknown FPI is owning $6bn shares. No action under undisclosed foreign income

Haryana worst performer during vax decentralisation

Analysis of CoWin app data shows only 0.19% of state's population fully vaccinated; Kerala tops list, followed by Ladakh & Lakshadweep

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

A day before the Centre takes full control of vaccination from the states, which were allotted 25 per cent vaccines under the previous policy, this newspaper analysed the data available on CoWin app to check how the states have performed in inoculating beneficiaries over the past 51 days.

On May 1, the Centre had modified the vaccine procurement policy when it had asked states to procure the doses from the open market to vaccinate the 18-44 year age group.

The worst performer in this respect turned out to be Haryana where only 50,336 people had received their second dose, out of a total of 25,351,462 population, as per the latest data available on June 19. It means only 0.19 per cent of Haryana's population had been fully vaccinated.

The second-worst performer was Himachal Pradesh where of a population of 68.64 lakh people, only 18,303 people had been given their second dose, which is only 0.26 per cent of its population. Himachal is followed by Tripura, where only 1.45 per cent of people had received their second dose.

Among all the states and UTs, Kerala was at the top of the list, with 13.87 per cent of its population fully vaccinated. Of the state's 1.74 crore people, 24.22 lakh had been given their second dose of vaccines. Delhi, given its population being similar to Kerala's, also was among the top performers. Of its population of nearly 1.67 crore, over 15.69 lakh people had been administered their second dose. In other words, 9.35 per cent of its total population had been vaccinated fully.

The best performing UTs were Ladakh, with a total population of nearly 2.74 lakh, where 13.66 per cent people had been fully vaccinated followed by Lakshadweep where 11.07 per cent of its population of 64,473 had received its second dose.

Among the states with substantial populations, over 5 crore, Gujarat seems to have done better than the others. Nearly 47.69 lakh doses had been administered to its population of nearly 6.03 crore people, resulting in 7.89 per cent of its population being fully vaccinated. It was followed by Karnataka, 5.22 per cent of whose population had received both doses. In none of the remaining states were even 5 per cent of people found to be fully vaccinated.

On June 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a centralised vaccine drive saying that the Centre will procure 25 per cent vaccines that were to be done by states.

"The Centre has decided to buy 75 per cent of jabs from vaccine makers, including 25 per cent of the state quota, and give it for free to state governments," the Prime Minister said in a televised address to the nation.

Medics administer vaccines to families of police personnel in Mumbai on Saturday | PTI

CM Thackeray critical of Cong for 'solo' talks

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA chief minister Uddhav Thackeray indirectly criticised Congress, while addressing his party workers on the 55th anniversary of Shiv Sena, saying that this is not the time to do politics, but help the state overcome the Covid-19 crisis.

This comes a day after Congress said that although it will support the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, of which it is a part, the party will not form poll pacts with Sena and NCP, the other two parties in the coalition government.

"If we talk of contesting elections solo now, people ridicule us. Which party does not want to win as many seats as possible fight elections on its own? But this is not the time for such announcements," Thackeray said.

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole has been talking about contesting elections on its own. NCP and Sena have said they will fight togehter. Thackeray said every party should take pride in its work, but that should not hurt the self-esteem of others. "Every party has to expand, but we cannot do politics all the time," Thackeray said.

The Shiv Sena president also said Sena has self-respect and will not bow in front of anyone for power.

Shoppers throng Khari Baoli Market in Old Delhi on Saturday. Centre asked states to carefully open up activities | PARVEEN NEGI

Lift restrictions in calibrated manner, MHA advises states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Saturday asked the states and union territories to ensure the easing of Covid-19-related lockdown and opening up of activities in a "calibrated manner", pointing out that the easing of norms has led to crowding in some markets and other places.

The Home Ministry urged states to ensure the "extremely important" five-fold strategy of Covid-appropriate behaviour, test-track-treat and vaccination to break the chain of transmission.

In a letter to the states, Union Home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla emphasised the need to continue adopting Covid-19-appropriate behaviour to contain the spread of the pandemic. Asking the state chief secretaries and administrators of Union territories to step up the pace of vaccination, to cover the maximum number of people expeditiously, Bhalla said vaccination against Covid-19, in the present scenario, is critical to breaking the chain of transmission.

The Home Secretary said during the second wave, a significant surge in cases was witnessed in several states and UTs, and many of them imposed restrictions to contain the spread of the infection.

"With a decline in the number of active cases, many states and UTs have started relaxing restrictions. I would like to highlight that the decision to impose or ease restrictions has to be taken, based on the assessment of the situation at the ground level," Bhalla said, in the letter to states and UTs.

3RD WAVE IN 6 WEEKS IF COVID NORMS IGNORED: AIIMS CHIEF

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WITH gradual unlocking underway in many states, a third wave is inevitable in the next six to eight weeks if Covid-appropriate behaviour is not strictly followed, AIIMS chief Dr Randeep Guleria warned on Saturday.

Authorities should keep in mind human behaviour while unlocking, he said, adding that it should be done in a graded manner.

"As we have started unlocking, there is again a lack of Covid-appropriate behaviour. We don't seem to have learnt from what happened between the first and the second wave. Again crowds are building up... people are gathering," Dr Guleria said, warning that it's just a matter of time before Covid cases shoot up again. "It all depends on how we go ahead in terms of Covid-appropriate behaviour and preventing crowds," he added. With the main challenge being vaccination, the increase in the gap of dosage in Covishield "may not be bad", he said in an interview to a news channel. He said the country will require mini-lockdowns in areas that witness a spike in cases and positivity rate beyond 5%. He emphasised that people would be vulnerable unless they are vaccinated. The focus should on 'testing, tracking, and treating' in hotspots, he added.

Emphasising the need to be careful as the virus is mutating, he said, "When there is a huge increase in the number of cases, shortage of (hospital) beds follows. The strategy should be multi-pronged—we have to make sure fresh cases don't rise. Any healthcare system globally will tend to collapse with the unprecedented rise in the infections."

On whether India needs to rethink the gap between two doses of Covishied, he said, "Nothing is written in stone. We will have to look at new strategies. But we need to have strong data to take that decision."

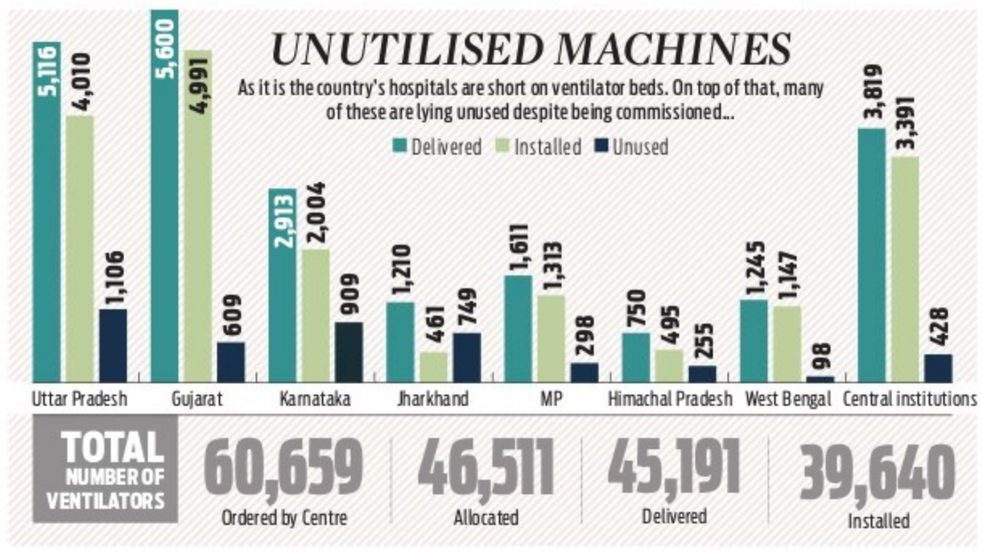
EXPRESS READ

India abstains on UNGA resolution on Myanmar

New Delhi: India has abstained on a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution calling for an arms embargo in Myanmar, saying its views have not been reflected in the draft and New Delhi does not believe the resolution, tabled hastily, is conducive to "aiding our joint efforts towards strengthening democratic process" in the country.

Active cases dip below 100 in 22 Raj districts

Jaipur: In a big respite for Rajasthan, 22 out of 33 districts are now on the threshold of becoming coronavirus-free as the number of active cases has slipped below 100-mark. In 29 districts, the number of positive cases was recorded below 10. On May 2, the maximum number of 18,298 Covid cases were reported, but on June 19, only 150 new infections were recorded.


UNUTILISED MACHINES
As it is the country's hospitals are short on ventilator beds. On top of that, many of these are lying unused despite being commissioned...
Delivered
Installed
Unused
Uttar Pradesh 5,116 4,010 1,106
Gujarat 5,600 4,991 609
Karnataka 2,913 2,004 909
Jharkhand 1,210 461 749
MP 1,611 1,313 298
Himachal Pradesh 750 495 255
West Bengal 1,245 1,147 98
Central institutions 3,819 3,391 428
TOTAL NUMBER OF VENTILATORS
60,659 Ordered by Centre
46,511 Allocated
45,191 Delivered
39,640 Installed

OVER 5,500 VENTILATORS LYING UNUSED IN DIFFERENT STATES

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

•An 85-year-old senior doctor, JK Mishra, at Swarup Rani Nehru Hospital in Prayagraj (UP) lost his life on April 26 after he was unable to find a ventilator bed at the hospital where he had served for 50 years.

•In Palanpur town of Banaskantha district of Gujarat, Dr Naresh Shah, 79, died on April 22 as his family members could not find a ventilator bed.

•Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Pt Rajan Mishra died of Covid-19 complications at a hospital in Delhi on April 26. His son claimed that the family had been desperately hunting for a ventilator "but nobody supported us" and by the time the PMO reached out, "he had left us".

Ventilator support system at the ICU of a children's Covid facility in Ranchi | PTI

Short supply of ventilators during the peak of the second wave of Covid-19 cost numerous lives. But even as patients suffered due to lack of critical life-saving medical equipment, hundreds of machines delivered to various states were lying unused.

Till the end of May, over 5,500 ventilators were gathering dust in storerooms in various states, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed in its reply to a query filed by this newspaper under the Right of Information (RTI) Act. The reply revealed a substantial gap between the number of ventilators ordered, delivered and installed in hospitals across the country.

As per the reply, the ministry ordered 60,559 ventilators from different manufacturers, of which 46,511 were allocated to states. Rest were for Central government hospitals. According to the ministry, 45,191 ventilators were delivered, of which 39,640 were installed by states till May 25, leaving 5,551 unused.

Amid reports of dire paucity of ventilators even as positive cases were recording massive daily spikes during April-May, there were sharp exchanges between the Centre and some Congress-ruled states over shortage as well as faulty machines being delivered. On April 11, the Union health secretary had written a letter to some states, including Punjab, to act on the ventilators lying idle in their possession. "Non-commissioning of the ventilators defeats the purpose" of fighting the pandemic, he said in his letter to Punjab chief secretary Viny Mahajan.

According to the RTI reply, however, it was BJP-ruled UP, Karnataka and Gujarat where the maximum number of ventilators were lying unutilised. Of the total 5,116 machines delivered to UP, 4,010 were up and running till May-end while 1,106 were still to be installed. Gujarat and Karnataka recorded delivery of 5,600 and 2,913 ventilators, of which they installed 4,991 and 2,004, respectively. That means, over 900 ventilators in Karnataka and over 600 in Gujarat were lying idle. On the contrary, Congress-ruled Punjab and Rajasthan had only 56 and 29 idle ventilators, respectively. Among opposition-ruled states, Jharkhand was the biggest defaulter with only 461 of the total 1,210 ventilators installed. In MP, even as patients were in desperate need of ventilator beds, the state government told the high court earlier this month that 204 ventilators were kept in storeroom as "back-up". During the peak of the second wave in May, Punjab and Rajasthan governments had alleged that the ventilators supplied to them under PM-CARES were found to be "defective and sub-standard" by hospitals that used them. There were dozens of reports from other states, including Maharashtra, too, about hundreds of machines lying defunct as they were faulty. In many cases, the devices were unpacked because the hospital lacked trained healthcare professionals to operate them. Regarding a query on non-functional ventilators or ventilators returned to manufacturers, the health ministry in its RTI said 'the information is not available centrally". It disclosed that it had ordered a performance audit after receiving complaints.

"After some reports of ventilators lying unutilised in some States, the ministry ordered to carry out a performance audit of installation/commissioning and operation of ventilators provided by the Centre to States/UTs," said the RTI reply. There was also a huge difference in the prices of ventilators purchased by the government from different companies. While 30,000 machines were ordered from Bharat Electronics at ₹5,04,640 per unit, 9,500 units were ordered from AMTZ (Basic) at the rate of ₹1,66,376 per piece. Allied Medical supplied 350 equipment at ₹8,62,400 per unit. About 1,000 ventilators were procured from Sinopharm at ₹10,89,500 per unit and 771 units were ordered from Hamilton at ₹10,32,400 per piece while 15 nits purchased from Draeger cost ₹17 lakh each.

Talent crunch haunts BJP, course correction on way

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

CONCERNED at the growing sense of discomfort over talent crunch in the government and the party, the BJP brass is learnt to be working overtime to address the issue.

The course correction roadmap concurred by the leadership of both the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is likely to be mirrored in the expansion of the Modi Cabinet and the saffron outfit's national office bearers' team.

At the core of the problem is the lack of a crop of leaders who can step in times of crisis to swing the public perception and rally party workers.

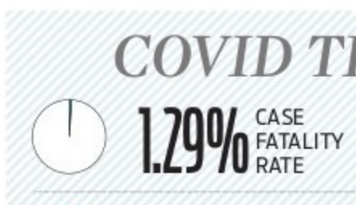
"The government and the BJP organisation mostly reflect a team of leaders with managerial bent of minds. The rise of Modi and Amit Shah corresponded with an expanding tribe of people with least public appeal in government and party positions. The pandemic has just woken up the leadership to the challenge that was being ignored," said a senior RSS functionary.

While the RSS mobilised its resources to set up Covid health care infrastructure during the second wave, sources said its senior functionaries noted the absence of ministers and BJP leaders from the scenes, which only added to the negative perception about the party.

"Not only is the government seen as PM-centric, there's hardly anyone among BJP national office bearers, except Bhupender Yadav, who can even manage elections in states. The rumblings in the state units suggest disconnect of the national office bearers from the ground realities," said a top BJP leader.

That the general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh has to be sent to four states four states in recent days to work out peace among warring factions reveals the extent of the dearth of talent pool in the party.

The possibility of exchange of resource pools between the government and the BJP appears also not ruled out, sources said.


COVID TRACKER
1.29% CASE FATALITY RATE
7,60,019 Active cases in India
2.98% DAILY POSITIVITY RATE
38,637 Net decline in cases
3.58% WEEKLY POSITIVITY RATE
19,02,009 Tests conducted on Friday
96.16% NATIONAL RECOVERY RATE
70% Of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities
VACCINE UPDATES
27,23,88,783 Vaccine doses administered so far
2,87,71,085 Doses available with states/UTs
52,26,460 Doses to be received by them in next 3 days
28,50,99,130 DOSES PROVIDED TO STATES/UTS SO FAR
HELPLINE NUMBERS
1075: National helpline | 1098: Child helpline | 14567: Senior citizens helpline | 08046110007: Helpline of NIMHANS for psychological support

TIGRESS IN FACTORY

A four-year-old tigress, 'Sharmili', which had taken refuge at an abandoned rubber factory after venturing out of the Kishanpur sanctuary last year has been captured in Uttar Pradesh

850 WATERBODIES WILL BE REJUVENATED IN JAMMU UNDER WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	26	Mumbai	30	26
Bhopal	30	24	Panaji	29	26
Jaipur	36	28	Patna	32	26
Amritsar	38	25	Lucknow	30	27
Chennai	36	28	Port Blair	32	27
Kolkata	31	24	Imphal	28	21
Srinagar	31	15	Chandigarh	41	30

Alliance decision to be blamed for poll rout, feel CPM Bengal leaders

Joining hands with the Muslim cleric-led ISF caused damage to Left front's secular image

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

THE CPI(M) West Bengal state committee members were at loggerheads during a two-day review meeting to discuss the party's disastrous performance in the recent Assembly elections. As the party failed to send a single representative to the House of 294 lawmakers, most of the leaders blamed it on the decision to join hands with one-month-old outfit Indian Secular Force (ISF).

Many members also expressed their discontent for the party's alliance with the Congress saying similar tie-up had caused damage to the party in 2016 polls. The Congress had pocketed 44 seats at that time while the Left parties could bag just 26 seats

In the recent election, the Left Front, Congress and ISF, the outfit floated by an influential Muslim cleric, formed an alliance to consolidate electorates who were against the ruling TMC and the rising BJP. Both the LF and Congressfailed to bag a single seat while the ISF won only one out of 27 where it had contested.

"Inclusion of ISF in the alliance was not a unanimous decision. It was Selim (politburo member Mohammad Selim) who had projected the ISF as a progressive force which, in reality, was not. Those who were in favour of joining hands with the new outfit wanted to arrest migration of minority votes to the TMC. The strategy was wrong and electorates did not accept it as CPI(M) has always been vocal of secularism," said a state committee member.

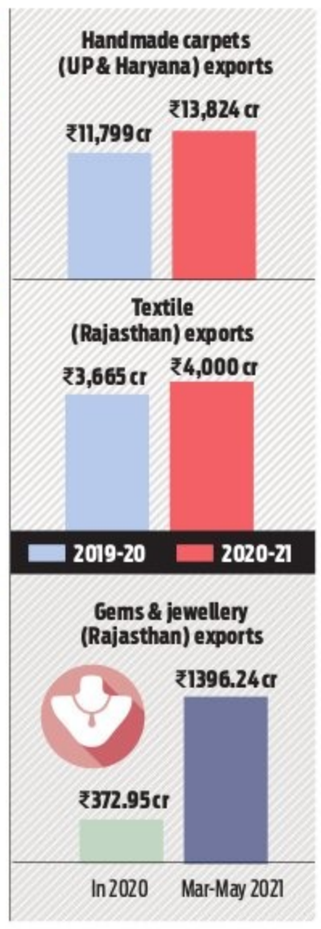
The alliance also received a set-back as the ISF fielded candidates in some of the seats in Murshidabad against Congress. State Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who was against the inclusion of ISF, had his party did not share seats with the outfit.

Incidently, many CPI(M) state committee members had wanted the party to contest in the polls without joining hands with the ISF and Congress.

> **Those who were in favour of alliance with the ISF wanted to arrest migration of minority votes to the TMC. The strategy was wrong and electorate did not accept it** — A CPI (M) state committee member

ON THE TRACK

Carpet exporters of UP and Haryana, jewellery merchants in Rajasthan and those involved with lacquerware in Punjab have seen figures rise after a slump last year



Handicraft export blooms as restrictions ease overseas

ANURAAG SINGH & RAJESH ASNANI @ Bhopal/Jaipur

DIFFERENCES in countries dealing with and recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic have had a positive impact on one segment of the Indian economy. Export of certain goods based on handicrafts has picked up, with the US and Europe clawing back to normal. When most industries in India are gasping in the second wave, shipping of the decorative and ornamental has started afresh.

Carpet exporters of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, gems and jewellery merchants in Rajasthan and those involved with embroidery and wooden lacquerware in Punjab have seen figures rise after a slump last year. Textile exporters have also seen things improve, in parts like Rajasthan's Bhilwara. Most of their buyers are in the US and Europe, where the pandemic was at its peak last year. Canada, Australia and the UAE are also among the popular destinations of these products.

The situation demanded exporters to plan differently. A majority of these businesses suffered deep losses in the domestic market since the virus spread and lockdown became the norm. This prompted some of these ventures to take the virtual route and display their ware to customers abroad. With restrictions gradually easing in those countries, these online expos became successful.

Export of handmade carpets from UP and Haryana went up by 17.76% in 2020-21, from ₹11,799 crore in 2019-2020 to ₹13,824 crore. After shipping out coloured gemstones worth ₹127.61 crore last year, exporters in Jaipur witnessed this figure rise to ₹460.35 crore already in 2021. Bhilwara's textile enterprise has also recorded a growth, while Punjab's handicrafts have staved off losses, clocking exports worth around ₹3 crore in both years.

The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC, set up by the Union ministry of textiles) held four virtual international fairs, showcasing the most innovative products. "It not only helped exports stay afloat after the jitters in April-May, 2020, but also helped eliminate the high cost of organising international carpet expos physically in India or abroad," says outgoing CEPC president and UP-based carpet exporter Siddhnath Singh.

> **We are focusing on selling handicrafts online and are in the process of developing our own website. We are also planning tie-ups with other online platforms**
>
> Neelima, MD, Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation

This business is based primarily in Mirzapur and Bhadohi in eastern UP and Panipat in Haryana. According to Singh, over 50% of their market is in the US, 25-28% in European nations and 20-22% in South America, Asia Pacific and the Middle East. "By June last year, the debilitating effect of the pandemic started declining, as the Panipat-based carpet units started meeting pending overseas orders. Though data of exports for this April and May is not yet tabulated, the industry is confident it has not been as badly hit in the second wave as in the first. The virtual platform has given us an opportunity," Singh asserts.

Things are literally glittering in Rajasthan's handicraft industry. Exports have picked up in a big way in recent months and they continue to provide jobs. In 2020, gems and jewellery exports amounted to ₹372.95 crore. From March to May this year, the figure has risen to ₹ 1,396.24 crore.

"Demand from the foreign markets is growing again. Besides that, with no national lockdown this year, the units in Jaipur, Mumbai and Surat could keep functioning. In April alone, the country exported gems and jewellery worth ₹25,226.11 crore," informs Sabyasachi Roy, Director of Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

Handicraft exporters also confirmed that figures are going up. Between March and May in 2020, 4,277 containers worth ₹410 crore were exported. In the same period this year, they have shipped 7,643 containers valued at ₹730 crore from Jodhpur's handicraft sector. Ismail Khan, handicraft exporter in Jodhpur, says markets were open in the UK, other parts of Europe and the US, resulting in increased demand this year. "I am happy that hundreds of artisans were able to feed their families during the tough times."

Although Punjab's handicraft dealers have seen sales plunge domestically, exports remaining the same has given them fresh hope.

With inputs from Harpreet Bajwa in Chandigarh

BJP wants 'balance' in J&K delimitation; seats to increase

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AS Delimitation Commission started the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior Apni Party leader said of the seven seats that will be added in the UT after delimitation, four will be in the Valley and three in Jammu.

Sources said the Delimitation Commission has written to all 20 Deputy Commissioners of J&K and asked them to share data of electorates, topography, composition of the districts and Assembly constituencies.

The exercise is being carried out as per 2011 Census. According to 2011 census, Kashmir's population was 68,88,475 and Jammu's population was 53,78,538. At present J&K Assembly has 83 seats — 47 in Kashmir and 36 in Jammu.

Senior Vice president of Apni Party Ghulam Hassan Mir said total number of seats in J&K Assembly would increase from 83 to P0. Of the seven seats that will increase after delimitation, four will be in Valley and three in Jammu region, he said.

A senior J&K BJP leader said the Delimitation Commission should keep in mind that it is not only population which is to be considered while reframing constituencies but area, terrain and other factors should also be taken into consideration. He said there should be a "balanced" delimitation process. "It should be ensured that all constituencies get an equitable number of voters. At present, in some constituencies there are a few thousand voters, while in my constituency, there more than one lakh voters".

However, chairman of Jammu-based IkkJutt Jammu, Advocate Ankur Sharma said delimitation based on 2011 census will only consolidate "Muslim hegemony" and perpetuate J&K as a "Muslim domain" apart from rest of India.

There are five associate members from J&K — 3 NC MPs and 2 BJP MPs — in the Commission.

SHIFTING GEAR

Jolt to BSP, senior OBC leader quits

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

IN a fresh jolt to the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), senior party leader and former UP minister Ambika Chaudhary quit the party on Saturday. This came just a few hours after his son Anand Chaudhary switched-over to rival Samajwadi Party (SP) in native Ballia district.

Though Chaudhary remained tight-lipped about his political future, sources close to him said he is likely to return to the SP on Monday.

After resigning from BSP, Chaudhary said, "I was feeling neglected in the BSP since 2019. Further, my son has been nominated by the SP as its candidate in Ballia district Panchayat chairperson poll, my loyalty to BSP could come under doubt."

Among the founder members of SP, Chaudhary has long been considered very close to SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and has held key cabinet portfolios in the UP governments in the past. In 2017 after being expelled from the Akhilesh-led party owing to proximity to Shivpal Yadav, Chaudhary, A powerful OBC leader, had joined the BSP.

BSP MLA from Ballia district's Rasra seat Umashankar Singh told this newspaper that Chaudhary and his son have "back-stabbed" the BSP for which both of them will have to pay politically.

With Ambika Chaudhary hailing from Yadav caste, the Saturday's devopment is an indicator of Yadavs polarising in favour of SP, which has inherently been a Yadav dominated political outfit.

NO BENEFIT

Population policy implementation soon: Assam CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

ASSAM will soon implement its population policy in state government schemes. "Whether it is waiver of loans or government schemes, the government is going to implement the population norms in the near future," CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Though the policy eventually looks to implement the two-children norm, Sarma said initially the numbers would be kept on the higher side, up to four-five children. Families belonging to tea garden community, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be exempted, he added.

The 'Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam' says persons with more than two children will not be eligible for government jobs and cannot become members of civic bodies. Such families will also not be considered for various benefits under government schemes. The policy came into effect from January 1 this year, but its execution is yet to start.

Last week, Sarma had made an appeal to Assam's migrant Muslims to plan small families. He had warned that if the population explosion in the state continued, there would be conflicts over space for living.

Renowned academic and V-C of Assam passes away

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

RENOWNED physicist Professor Dhiraj Bora passed away on Saturday. He was the Vice Chancellor of Assam Science & Technology University. He did his schooling from the Daly College, Indore and passed out in 1968.

Assam Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma were among leaders who mourned the death.

"I am deeply saddened to know the untimely death of Dr. Dhiraj Bora, Vice Chancellor of Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati. As an academician, he was par excellent and contributed immensely to the growth of higher and technical education in Assam," Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi said in a tweet.

Mukhi further wrote: "His untimely departure is a great loss to the state and country. As a Chancellor, I will definitely miss Dr. Dhiraj Bora and his prudent company."

The Chief Minister's Office tweeted: "CM Dr @himantabiswa extends rich tributes to renowned physicist and educator Prof Dhiraj Bora on his demise. He was VC, Assam Science & Technology University, Guwahati & ex-Director, Institute of Plasma Research, Gujarat. He leaves behind a rich legacy in academia and education."

State's Health Minister Keshab Mahanta said Bora's contributions as the vice chancellor of Assam Science & Technology University & former Director of the Institute of Plasma Research, Gujarat were enormous.

UNUSUAL REFUGE

Chhattisgarh jail turns safe shelter to terrified villagers against marauding jumbos

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

A newly built prison in Chhattisgarh has turned into a shelter for villagers who fear for life from marauding wild elephants.

Jumbos have been running amok in the villages of Bhanupratapur block of Kanker district, about 200 km south of Raipur, for the last two weeks.

Since most villagers here don't have *pucca* houses, they approached the authorities demanding measures to safeguard their lives. On Saturday alone, the pachyderms destroyed five huts in a village.

"As a precautionary measure we have shifted around 300 villagers from three-four villages to the jail which has been recently constructed. Temporary lights and other essential arrangements have been made for their safe stay till we ensure that the wild elephants, numbering around 22, are no longer a threat to their lives. Most of the villagers live in huts which are usually made of mud. These huts collapse when targeted by elephants which raid the villages for food," said Manish Kashyap, Kanker divisional forest officer (DFO).

Bhanupratapur sub-divisional officer (Forest) R K Rayasth told they are consistently keeping a watch over the location and movement of the jumbos.

The forest department has sounded alert in several villages where elephants had recently created ruckus, forcing the occupants to flee for shelter in nearby school buildings.

Chhattisgarh is among those states where human-elephant conflicts are a perennial problem. Over 260 elephants in around 20 herds reportedly move around in different forest divisions in the state.

Pvt hospitals' help sought for ramping up vax drive

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has sought the help of private hospitals to ramp up Covid-19 vaccination in the city and offered properties belonging to it for private units to organise off-site vaccination drives. The issues related to vaccination were discussed during a meeting with senior officials of private hospitals at the civic headquarters on Thursday. The hospitals were asked to place more orders for vaccines than what they are doing now so that more people can be brought under the vaccination net. The state government will help source Covid vaccines for private hospitals so that they do not have to slow down their vaccination pace because of any supply issues, said the officials.

KOLKATA DIARY

PRANAB MONDAL
Our correspondent in West Bengal
pranabm@newindianexpress.com

Formula to evaluate Class 12 students ready

In lieu of Class 12 examinations in the 2020-21 academic year, the Bengal higher secondary council has decided to evaluate students by giving 40 per cent weightage to their performance in Class 10 board exams and 60 per cent in class 11 annual exams. The state education department decided to scrap Higher Secondary 2021 exams because of the surge in Covid cases. Instead, it has decided that combined weightage of the two exams (Class 10 and Class 11) will be added to 30-mark practicals (for lab-based subjects) or 20-mark project work (for non-lab subjects) and this will be considered the "principal basis of evaluation" to arrive at the final marks of Class 12 candidate. While factoring in the secondary exam marks, students' performance in the best four subjects (carrying 400 marks) will be considered.

Candidates to write XLAT from home on July 18

St Xavier's University, New Town, which had postponed the Xavier Law Admission Test (XLAT) in April because of the Covid-19 pandemic, has scheduled the test for July 18. Aspirants can write the tests online from home. The computer-based test that would have required visiting examination centres was to be held in nine cities, including Kolkata, on April 25. Now, the test will be internet-based. If an aspirant has poor connectivity at home, he or she can go to the campus and use the university's facilities to write the test, said the varsity officials.

Action recommended against 3 city hospitals

The West Bengal Clinical Establishment Regulatory Commission on Friday recommended legal action against three private hospitals in Kolkata. A probe found that the three hospitals, with common ownership, lacked adequate infrastructure and had presented inflated bills to patients and were operating with healthcare personnel who were not qualified. One of the complainants told the commission that he had deposited `1 lakh during admission and when the patient was discharged after a day, he was refunded only `20,000. The patient was charged `80,000 for one day's treatment.

2 more Indo-Canadian politicians appointed as ministers in a Cabinet reshuffle in Canada's Ontario province

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	37	21	LC	Los Angeles	28	16	SNY
Colombo	29	27	LC	Melbourne	14	6	LC
Dhaka	29	25	TDS	Moscow	31	19	SNY
Dubai	44	31	SNY	New York	31	23	LC
Houston	34	28	TDS	Singapore	31	26	TDS
Istanbul	25	18	LR	Toronto	23	18	SNY
London	20	12	LR	Washington	32	23	LC

HARDLINE JUDICIARY HEAD WINS IRAN PRESIDENCY

Cleric Ebrahim Raisi wins 62% of the votes; poll turnout of 48.8% a record low for a presidential election in the Islamic republic

DUBAI

IRAN'S hardline judiciary chief won a landslide victory on Saturday in the country's presidential election, a vote that both propelled the supreme leader's protege into Tehran's highest civilian position and saw the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history.

The election of Ebrahim Raisi, already sanctioned by the US in part over his involvement in the mass execution of thousands of political prisoners in 1988, became more of a coronation after his strongest competitors found themselves disqualified from running. That sparked calls for a boycott and many apparently did stay home — out of over 59 million eligible voters, only 28.9 million voted.

Of those voted, some 3.7 million people either accidentally or intentionally voided their ballots, far beyond the amount seen in previous elections and suggesting some wanted none of the four candidates.

Iranian state television immediately blamed challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and US sanctions for the low participation. But the low turnout and voided ballots suggested a wider unhappiness with the tightly controlled election, as activists criticised Raisi's ascension.

In official results, Raisi won 17.9 million votes overall, nearly 62% of the total 28.9 million cast. Had the voided ballots gone to a candidate, that person would have come in second place. Following Raisi was former hard-line Revolutionary Guard commander Mohsen Rezaei with 3.4 million votes.

Former Central Bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati, a moderate viewed as a stand-in for outgoing President Hassan Rouhani in the election, came in third with 2.4 million votes. Amirhossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi was last with just under 1 million.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, who gave the results, did not explain the high number of voided ballots. Elections in 2017 and 2012 saw some 1.2 million voided ballots apiece. Iran does not allow international election observers to monitor its polls.

Outgoing President Hassan Rouhani (L) with President-elect Ebrahim Raisi during the former's visit to congratulate the cleric on winning the election | AFP

While Iran does not have mandatory voting, those casting ballots do receive stamps showing they voted on their birth certificates. Some worry that could affect their ability to apply for jobs and scholarships, or to hold onto their positions in the government or the security forces.

Hemmati, like the three other candidates, conceded even before the results were released. "I hope your administration provides causes for pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran, improves the economy and life with comfort and welfare for the great nation of Iran," he wrote on Instagram.

Rouhani, who in 2017 dismissed Raisi as an opponent in his re-election as someone only knowing about "executions and imprisoning" people, met the cleric on Saturday and congratulated him.

"I hope I can respond well to the people's confidence, vote and kindness during my term," Raisi said.

"God willing, we will do our best so that the hope for the future now alive in people's hearts grows further," said Raisi, adding that he wants to strengthen public trust in the government for a "bright and pleasant life together".

Abroad, Syrian President Bashar Assad immediately congratulated Raisi's win, saying he hopes to 'strengthen the course of bilateral relations based on long decades of historical friendship, mutual understanding and common interests between' the two countries, Syrian state media said. Iran has been instrumental in seeing Assad hold onto the presidency amid his country's decade-long grinding war. Separate congratulations came from Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also serves as vice president and prime minister of the hereditarily ruled United Arab Emirates. *Agencies*

Amnesty calls for probe against Raisi

Nicosia: Ultraconservative cleric Ebrahim Raisi should be investigated for alleged crimes against humanity and a "spiralling crackdown" on human rights, Amnesty International said. "That Ebrahim Raisi has risen to the presidency instead of being probed for the crimes against humanity, enforced disappearance and torture, is a grim reminder that impunity reigns supreme in Iran," Amnesty said in a statement.

Exiled oppn hails 'boycott' of Iran vote

Paris: The majority of voters in Iran shunned presidential elections won by hardline judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi, exiled opposition groups said on Saturday, hailing the "boycott" as a blow to the country's theocratic system. Iranian opposition groups based abroad had urged a boycott of the poll.

Kim swears to overcome economic hardships

SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un "solemnly swore" to navigate his country out of deepening economic troubles as he concluded a major ruling party meeting, acknowledging food shortages and urging officials to prepare for both dialogue and confrontation with the United States.

North Korea's state media released Kim's comments shortly before President Joe Biden's special representative for North Korea, Sung Kim, arrived in South Korea on Saturday for talks over stalled nuclear diplomacy with the North.

Kim Jong Un had presided over a four-day plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Committee, which he summoned to discuss efforts to salvage a dismal economy, hurt by years of mismanagement and United States-led sanctions that were made worse by pandemic border closures.

As he closed the meetings on Friday, Kim "solemnly swore" on behalf of the Central Committee that the party "will surely break through head-on the difficulties lying in the way of the revolution," the Korean Central News Agency reported.

Kim earlier ordered his government to prepare for both dialogue and confrontation with the United States, which has been urging the North to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions and return to talks.

Kim has threatened to bolster his nuclear deterrent and says the fate of diplomacy and bilateral relations depends on whether Washington abandons what he calls hostile policies. *AP*

Hong Kong court denies bail to editor of pro-democracy daily

HONG KONG

A HONG Kong court ordered the top editor of pro-democracy newspaper *Apple Daily* and the head of its parent company held without bail on Saturday in the first hearing since their arrest two days ago under the city's national security law.

Ryan Law, the chief editor, and Cheung Kim-hung, the CEO of Next Digital, have been charged with collusion with a foreign country to endanger national security in a case widely seen as an attack on press freedom in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Chief Magistrate Victor So said there was not sufficient grounds to believe they would not violate the security law again, and ordered them held at the Lai Chi Kok detention center. He set the next hearing for August 13.

Chan Pui-man, Associate Publisher of 'Apple Daily', walks out from a court in Hong Kong | AP/PTI

Law and Cheung arrived at the court in an unmarked white van with covered windows. A handful of activists held up a banner and copies of the *Apple Daily* outside before the hearing began.

Three others also arrested on Thursday — two Apple Daily senior editors and another executive — have not been charged yet and were released on bail late on Friday pending further investigation.

One of them, Associate Publisher Chan Pui-man, said after attending the bail hearing, "I think that all media workers in Hong Kong are worried. But for now, for us, tomorrow, we will still come out with our newspaper, and we'll do our best to continue our work."

The *Apple Daily* has long been one of the most outspoken defenders of civil liberties in Hong Kong. It supported massive protests demanding more democracy in 2019 and has criticized the subsequent crackdown, including the enactment of a national security law last year. The central government in Beijing has defended the legislation and the crackdown on opposition voices as necessary to restore order and stability. The 2019 protests that challenged Beijing's rule often started as peaceful marches during the day but turned into violent clashes between hard-core demonstrators and police at night. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

SRI LANKA

Wrong Covid death figures upset President

Colombo: A senior health official in Sri Lanka has been transferred after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa expressed his unhappiness over not being able to ease the Covid restrictions in the country on June 14 due to presentation of wrong data that showed a spike in the number of deaths from the virus. Addressing the health officials to announce the easing of travel restrictions from June 21 till June 25, Rajapaksa said he was planning to lift the lockdown on June 14 but could not do so due to the presentation of wrong data on Covid deaths. In what is being seen as a fall out of the President's comments, chief epidemiologist Sudath Samaraweera, who was holding the position of the Director of the Epidemiology Unit in the health ministry, has now been transferred as the head of the dengue fever prevention unit.

NEPAL

Covid caseload jumps to 645,209

Kathmandu: Nepal's Covid caseload jumped to 645,209 on Saturday as 2,401 more people were infected with the virus. According to the health ministry, 7,010 swab samples were taken for the RT-PCR test in the last 24 hours, of which 1,688 results returned positive. The virus was detected among 713 people in antigen tests conducted on 4,686 people in the same period. There are active 57,618 coronavirus cases in the country. The number of people who have recovered from the disease is 553,342. PTI

CHINA

Xi administers loyalty pledge to senior leaders

Beijing: Ahead of China's ruling Communist Party's centenary celebrations, President Xi Jinping, who has emerged as its leader on par with its founder Mao Zedong, has publicly administered loyalty pledge to senior party leaders calling them to follow the "leadership core" and strive for the country's modernisation and national rejuvenation. Since Xi took over power in December 2012, he has been officially declared as the "core leader" of the Communist Party of China. Standing ahead of the 25-member Politburo of the party, which included No.2 leader Premier Li Keqiang, during a visit to an exhibition at the newly-inaugurated museum of the CPC in Beijing on Friday, Xi administered the pledge which was telecast by the state-run television channels. AP

Many hurt as French police break up rave

PARIS

FRENCH police clashed with partygoers as they tried to break up an unauthorised rave in western France, authorities said on Saturday.

A 22-year-old man lost his hand and several others were injured amid the violence, including police. The tensions erupted in a field near the Brittany town of Redon on Friday night, just two days before France lifts an overnight virus curfew that's been in place for more than eight months and has prompted growing frustration among young people.

1,500 attendees

Local authorities estimated about 1,500 people took part in the event despite a local ordinance banning it

Police repeatedly fired tear gas and charged clusters of violent partygoers who hurled metal balls, gasoline bombs and other projectiles at security forces, according to images shared online and comments by the top government official in the region, prefect Emmanuel Berthier. Local authorities estimated about 1,500 people took part in the event despite a local ordinance banning it.

Berthier accused the attendees of "extreme" and "inexcusable" violence. It took police more than seven hours to disperse the crowd and authorities were still evacuating people from the field on Saturday morning, Berthier told reporters.

Regional prosecutor Philippe Astruc said three investigations are under way into the clashes, including how the 22-year-old lost his hand. Regional gendarme chief Pierre Sauvegrain told France-Info radio that the man was believed to have picked up an object that exploded.

Other investigations are probing violence that left five police officers injured, and looking into who organised the party. *AP*

Partygoers take part in an illegal rave party in a field in Redon, north-western France, on Saturday | AFP

EXPRESS READ

Armenia votes today in early polls

Yerevan: Armenia's leader is facing a tough challenge at the polls after a humiliating defeat for Armenian forces in last year's fighting with Azerbaijan over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called the early election for Sunday, seeking to assuage public anger over the peace deal he signed in November that triggered months of protests demanding his resignation. The Moscow-brokered agreement ended six weeks of fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces, but saw Azerbaijan reclaim control over large parts of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas. AP

STANDING TALL

People gather during the unveiling of a statue dedicated to George Floyd as part of Juneteenth celebrations in Brooklyn, New York, on Saturday. Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin last year had fuelled a global movement for racial justice. The US has designated Juneteenth, which marks the end of slavery in the country, a federal holiday | AFP

EU threatens Lebanese politicians with sanctions

BEIRUT

THE European Union's (EU) foreign policy chief on Saturday berated Lebanese politicians for delays in forming a new Cabinet, warning the union could impose sanctions on those behind the political stalemate in the crisis-hit country.

Josep Borrell made his comments at the presidential palace near the capital Beirut after meeting with President Michel Aoun. It was the first meeting in a two-day visit to Lebanon.

Borrell said Lebanese politicians should quickly form a new government, implement reforms and reach a deal with the International Monetary Fund to start getting the tiny country out of its paralysing economic and financial crisis.

Lebanon's economic crisis, triggered by decades of corruption and mismanagement, began in late 2019 and has intensified in recent months.

The World Bank said earlier this month the crisis is likely to rank as one of the worst the world has seen in more than 150 years, adding that the economy contracted 20.3per cent in 2020 and is expected to shrink 9.5per cent this year. *AP*

Myanmar protesters wear flowers to mark Suu Kyi's birthday

YANGON

ANTI-COUP protesters in Myanmar donned flowers in their hair on Saturday to mark the birthday of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who remains under house arrest and is due to face court again next week.

Suu Kyi's elected government was overthrown in a February 1 coup that sparked mass protests and renewed clashes between the military and ethnic rebel armies in border regions. Flowers tucked into a bun have long been a signature look of Suu Kyi, who turned 76 on Saturday. Many replicated the floral hairstyle and uploaded pictures onto social media across Myanmar for the occasion. Among them was Myanmar Miss Universe beauty queen Thuzar Wint Lwin, who wore red flowers in her hair and wrote: "May our leader be healthy." In Yangon's north, protesters put up posters on power lines wishing Suu Kyi a happy birthday and expressing solidarity. "Happy Birthday Mother Suu. We are right behind you," the signs read.

In the border region of Karen state, some rebel soldiers were photographed holding their guns and yellow, white and purple posies, as well as single flowers tucked behind their ears. Demonstrators in the south-eastern city of Dawei made a giant pink birthday cake and brought it to their street protest.

The Noble Peace Prize Laureate's international reputation was damaged after she defended Myanmar's military over allegations of genocide against the ethnic minority Rohingya population in troubled Rakhine state in 2017.

The UN General Assembly had on Friday took the rare step of calling on member states to "prevent the flow of arms" into Myanmar, part of a non-binding resolution condemning the military coup in the violence-wracked country.

On Saturday, Myanmar's Foreign Ministry rejected the resolution and described it as being "based on one-sided sweeping allegations and false assumptions." The statement issued said Foreign Ministry had sent letters of objection to the UN secretary-general and the General Assembly's president. *AP*

Protesters take part in a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon

A woman making the three-finger salute as she wears flowers in her hair, as part of a social media campaign to mark the birthday of Myanmar's detained civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, in Yangon, on Saturday | PICS: AFP

$608.08 bn was India's forex reserve as of June 11, according to RBI data. This was an increase of $3.07 billion over the previous week

Govt seeks info on Indian money in Swiss banks

Request comes after reports that there has been a rise in such deposits during 2020

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Finance ministry on Saturday said that it has sought information from the Swiss authorities in order to verify whether there has been an increase or a decrease in deposits by Indians in Swiss banks.

The response came after a section of the media reported that funds of Indians in Swiss banks have risen to over ₹20,700 crore (CHF 2.55 billion) at the end of 2020 from ₹6,625 crore (CHF 899 million) at the end of 2019, reversing a 2-year declining trend. "The Swiss authorities have been requested to provide the relevant facts along with their view on possible reasons for increase/decrease in the light of the media reports highlighted above," the finance ministry said in a statement.

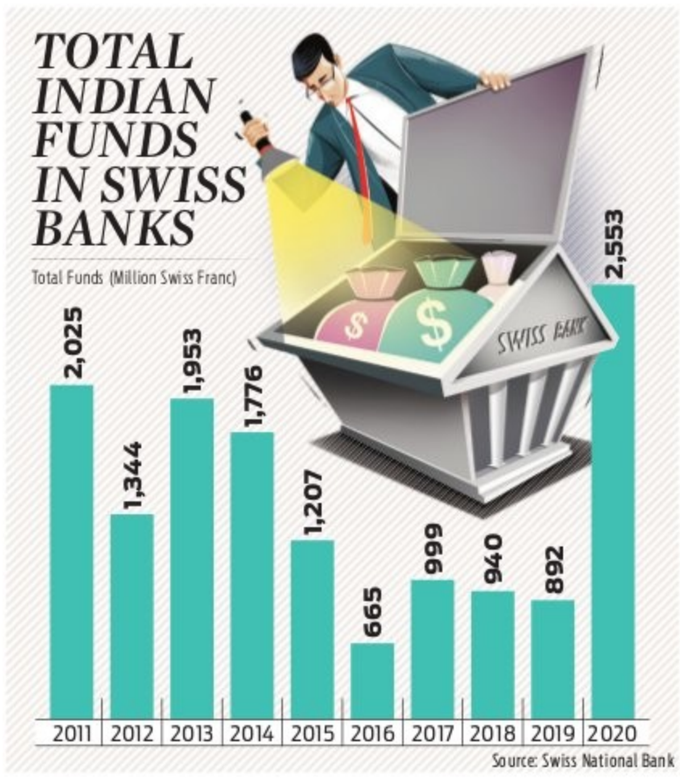
The ministry explained that the figures quoted in the media are actually official figures reported by banks to the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and that they do not indicate the quantum of black money held by Indians in Switzerland. It further said that these statistics do not include the money that Indians, NRIs, or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third–country entities.

The finance ministry, in fact, points out that customer deposits have fallen in 2020 over the previous year.

"Customer deposits have actually fallen from the end of 2019. The funds held through fiduciaries has also more than halved from end of 2019. The biggest increase is in "Other amounts due from customers". These are in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments," it said.

The ministry has given a number of reasons for the possible increase in such deposits. The government says that this could be due to an increase in the deposits held by Indian companies in Switzerland owing to increased business transactions; an increase in deposits owing to the business of Swiss bank branches located in India; an increase in inter-bank transactions between Swiss and Indian banks; or a capital increase for a subsidiary of a Swiss company in India.

Exchanges of such information on their residents have taken place between both countries in 2019 and 2020.



RONALDO'S COKE KICK IS A TERRIFIC HEALTH MESSAGE

GURBIR SINGH

MORE than his silky-smooth two goals against Hungary a few days ago, it was Cristiano Ronaldo's marketing kick, the removal of the two Coke bottles before the start of his press conference, that has caught people's attention. 'Agua', he shouted, pointing to a bottle of water as his preferred choice over disgusting, fizzy drinks.

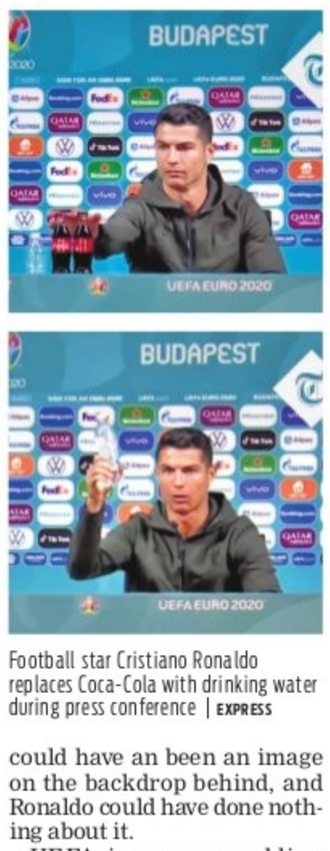
A day after Ronaldo's public show of disdain for Coke, French striker Paul Pogba took exception to a bottle of Heineken being placed in front of him after being named man of the match in France's 1-0 win against Germany. The beer was Heineken's alcohol-free 0.0 brand. Pogba is a Muslim and it is not known whether the product and event managers had been sensitized that-zero-alcohol or not-Heineken is after all an alcohol brand, and it should not have been there.

When a brand like Coke or Heineken pays maybe $50-60 million to be one of the sponsors of the hugely popular Euro2020 Football Championships-10 sponsors for Euro2016 collectively paid $575 million-one would expect the minutest details worked out. It is therefore marketing failure (big-time) to not understand the sensitivities of these super stars, themselves big brands, before trying to ride on their shoulders.

Sensitive branding

The football stars are not endorsing Coke or Heineken; the products are on display via the sponsorship contracts for the tournament. Ronaldo or Pogba have no personal stake. If that is the case, the advertisers should have done their homework about the preferences and inclinations of the football players. Cristiano Ronaldo, a superbly fit health fiend at 36, is known to be against carbonated drinks and has said as much in interviews when deriding his small son's addiction to Coke and Fanta.

Someone should have taken care to see that the coke bottles were not staring at him from the table he sat down on; Coke could have an been an image on the backdrop behind, and Ronaldo could have done nothing about it.



Football star Cristiano Ronaldo replaces Coca-Cola with drinking water during press conference | EXPRESS

UEFA is now scrambling around reminding team officials that their players should respect sponsors' advertising, since that is what part-finances the $2.5 billion European soccer tournament. But what happens when players have conscience objections?

South African cricketer Hashim Amla refused to sport a Castle Rock beer logo on his jersey for religious reasons; other Pakistani cricketers too have had the same problem. Endorsement contracts, as it is complex, are going to get more mind-boggling.

What do these faux paus cost the advertiser? Ronaldo's snub cost Coke a share price drop from $56.10 to $55.22 almost immediately, a 1.6 per cent dip that pushed down its market value from $242bn to $238 billion-a drop of $4 billion. When investing billions on celebs to push a brand, the advertiser must do his research about his 'human' brand too. Going for a quick-fix can only rebound.

Sample this: English football star David Beckham was signed on for a $6 million, four-year contract to promote the hair product Brylcreem. Halfway through the agreement Beckham decided to shave his head, making it difficult for the hairstyling cream to connect with the star. Brylcreem continued with Beckham, but consumers punished both brands, and sales of Bryclream dropped 25 per ent soon after the shaved head popped up.

Long-term impact

Will a Coke or a Heineken recover from such hugely negative publicity? There is not a shadow of doubt they will. People have short memories and for every young consumer, who is impressed by Ronaldo's health message, there are five new suckers to take his place. At worst, it will be an embarrassment these brands will have to endure through the UEFA tournament.

Coke has survived worse. In 2004, the world was in shock when it became known that farmers in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere were using these carbonated, syrupy drinks as pesticides and spraying them on plants. The sugar spray attracted ants on to the plants, which in turn ate the pests' larvae. From a marketing point of view it was a disaster for Coke, but it survived.

On the other hand, the debate and dust that Ronaldo has kicked up will make the world richer in health consciousness. A single bottle of the fizzy drink has 10 teaspoons of added sugar. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends consuming not more than 6 teaspoons of added sugar daily.

Dieticians also point out that blood sugar levels shoot up within 20 minutes of drinking Coke, causing a burst of insulin. The liver then turns the high amounts of sugar circulating the body into fat.

Caroline Cerny of the Obesity Health Alliance, a coalition of more than 40 major health organizations, said: "Ronaldo's defiant stance against being associated with a sugary drink could mark a turning point and we hope other sports stars will similarly refuse to be used as walking adverts for junk food and other unhealthy products."

More power to celeb sportsmen to become carriers of sensible health messages.

HDFC Bank to buy ₹1,906 cr stake in Ergo

HDFC Bank on Saturday said its board has given its approval to buy more than 3.55 crore shares in group firm HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company for over ₹1,906 crore from the parent company Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC).

"The board of directors of HDFC Bank at its meeting held on June 18, 2021 has approved the purchase of 3,55,67,724 equity shares of ₹10 each, representing 4.99 per cent of the outstanding issued and paid-up capital of HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Ltd from HDFC Ltd," HDFC Bank said in the exchange filing. HDFC is the promoter and related party of the bank.

The purchase is to happen at a price determined on an independent evaluation report, subject to receipt of necessary approvals including regulatory approvals and approval from shareholders of the bank, the statement added.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance had a gross written premium of ₹12,444 crore for the year ended March 2021. The company's net worth stood at ₹2,927 crore. private sector general insurer is one of the fastest growing companies among the peers with its gross written premium growing at a 35 per cent compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) over the last 13 years. PTI

Growth in bank credit to industries and services sectors remains subdued

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DESPITE the low base effect of the previous year, when India was under a complete lockdown, credit growth was slower at 5.7 per cent during the fortnight ending on June 4, 2021, compared to the previous fortnight. This can be ascribed to risk aversion and a regional lockdown imposed by states this year to curb the spread of the second coronavirus wave, said Care Ratings.

Going forward, it added, the credit growth for FY22 is likely to remain in the low double-digit on the back of muted economic activity and this could further delay the anticipated pick-up in credit growth. The agriculture and personal loans segments have been the key drivers of bank credit. On the other hand, the industry and services sectors have witnessed subdued credit growth at 1 per cent y-o-y as of March 2021. Within the industrial sector, credit to both micro and small industries as well as large industries remains quite low. However, credit to medium industries has steadily accelerated to almost 30 per cent y-o-y, a reflection of support for this segment due to the Centre's ECLGS programme.

5.7%
Credit growth in May 21-Jun 4

₹5.9 lakh cr
y-o-y increase in bank credit

In absolute terms, bank credit increased by ₹5.9 lakh crore compared to the fortnight ended June 5, 2020, and against the previous fortnight, bank credit has increased marginally by ₹10,000 crore.

The incremental credit (April to June) growth for FY22 stood at -0.4 per cent compared with -0.8 per cent in FY21 and 0.1 per cent in FY20. "This indicates that the incremental growth has been better than last year but is yet to return to normal," Care Ratings noted.

On the other hand, deposit growth remained at similar levels witnessed in the previous fortnight—that is 9.7 per cent y-o-y growth for the fortnight ended May 21 and June 4, which is lower as compared to the 11.3 per cent y-o-y growth registered in the previous year (fortnight ended June 5, 2020).

Confusion persists over IBC default threshold

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THERE is no end to the confusion over the threshold default amount at which insolvency proceedings should be triggered against a corporate debtor. While initially, this threshold was kept at ₹1 lakh, at the onset of first wave of Covid-19 last year, the government had revised it to ₹1 crore through an executive order.

This revision was made at the same time when the government suspended the insolvency law for a year. Though the suspension came to an end on March 25 this year, the new ₹1 crore threshold continues.

Will the government go back to the older threshold or will it continue with the new one (₹1 crore)? There seems to be no clear answer.

Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India MS Sahoo said that it was an executive decision to revise the minimum default amount for initiating insolvency proceedings, and not a Parliament decision.

"The Parliament says that the threshold is ₹1 lakh, but if the executive wants, the same can be increased to ₹1 crore. Last year, the executive found the need to increase the threshold to ₹1 crore, but if it (the executive) sees the need to revert back to ₹1 lakh limit, it will," he says, adding that given the policy compulsions of the government, it is difficult to say when and how.

But then, there are other views. Misha, partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, is of the opinion that even if the decision (to increase the threshold) was taken during the pandemic as a relief measure for the industry, keeping in mind the overall distress in the economy and an earlier demand to increase the threshold, it is a decision that won't be reversed.

But not revising the minimum amount for triggering insolvency may impact small vendors who have successfully used the insolvency law as a recovery mechanism.

For example, a vendor moved an insolvency petition against GlaxoSmithKline Pharma for non-payment of an amount of ₹8.5 lakh. Once threatened with the insolvency petition, GlaxoSmithKline paid back the amount and the insolvency application was withdrawn. As of March 31, 2021, there were over 17,000 insolvency applications involving defaults worth ₹5.33 lakh crore which were resolved without getting admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

TIGHT RACE

Jio extends lead in net mobile user additions, inactive subs still high

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

RELIANCE Jio beat rival Bharti Airtel in March for the second month in a row after lagging behind the latter in terms of net mobile user additions for six straight months. However, Jio continues to record the largest inactive user base at 91 million, compared to Airtel's 8 million and Vodafone Idea's 21 million.

According to data released by sector regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), March saw all four major telecom service providers recording an improvement in net additions to their wireless user base. Reliance Jio saw a sharp increase in this metric during the month, adding a net 7.92 million wireless users compared to the 4.26 million addition in the previous month of February.

Airtel added 4.05 million compared to February's 3.73 million and Vodafone Idea added 1.09 million against 652,625. State-run BSNL also turned around its fortunes during March,adding a net 194,310 wireless users compared to a net loss of 359,157 in February.

Jio's ramp up in wireless net additions is a reversal of last year's trend, when Airtel had pipped the Mukesh Ambani firm for six straight months between August 2020 and January 2021. It was only in February 2021 that Jio began regaining the lead it had held nearly continuously from its launch until last year.

Large number of inactive subscribers with Jio

With 91 million inactive users as of the end of March 2021, Jio had the weakest proportion of active users among total subscribers at just 78.43 per cent, compared to Vodafone Idea's 90.13 per cent and Airtel's 97.72 per cent

Net wireless subscriber additions

	February	March
Reliance Jio	4,266,819	7,918,129
Bharti Airtel	3,737,645	4,055,109
Vodafone Idea	652,625	1,088,792
BSNL	-359,157	194,310

Source: TRAI

Higher user additions have helped Jio increase its total wireless market share from 35.5% in February to 35.8 in March, even as Airtel's market share remained stagnant at 29.8 per cent and Vodafone Idea's fell from 20.2 per cent to 20 per cent.

Jio also retains the lead in terms of total telecom subscribers at 422.92 million, followed by Airtel with 352.40 million users and Vodafone Idea at 283.71 users. However, the Reliance telco continues to struggle with a large overhang of inactive subscribers, which remains far larger than any of its competitors.

As of the end of March, Jio had the weakest proportion of active users among its total subscribers at just 78.43 per cent, compared to Vodafone Idea's 90.13 per cent and Airtel's 97.72 per cent.

Deeply concerned with glitches in tax portal: Infy

INFOSYS on Saturday said it is deeply concerned with the inconvenience caused by the technical glitches in the new income tax e-filing portal, and that it is working to resolve all the issues at the earliest.

The new portal was launched on June 7, with the I-T department as well as the government saying it was aimed at making compliance more taxpayer-friendly. However, users complained of technical issues while using the site from the very first day. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman herself had asked Infosys to fix the technical glitches.

On June 9, Infosys had said it expects the system to stabilise in the course of this week. Finance ministry officials will meet representatives of Infosys on June 22 to discuss issues and glitches on the portal as users continue to face inconvenience.

"Infosys is working to resolve the concerns in the new income tax e-filing portal. For the last week, several of the technology glitches, which impacted the performance and stability, have been addressed. And as a result, we have observed lakhs of unique daily users in the portal," Infosys Chief Operating Officer Pravin Rao said at its 40th AGM.

Responding to a query from a shareholder, Rao said close to one lakh income tax returns have been filed so far. He noted that as new functions are introduced on the "complex" platform, concerns related to filing forms, e-proceedings and other instances were observed. PTI

EXPRESS READ

Bank reports 2 Anil Ambani cos for fraud

New Delhi: Karnataka Bank has reported two loan accounts of Anil Ambani's Reliance group companies for committing frauds to the tune of ₹160 crore. The Mangaluru-based bank has reported the frauds to the Reserve Bank of India. The two companies named are Reliance Commercial Finance and Reliance Home Finance. Both accounts are classified as NPAs and have been 100% provided for, the bank said.

NTPC Q4 profit zooms to ₹4,649 crore

New Delhi: State-owned power giant NTPC on Saturday posted nearly three-fold jump in consolidated net profit to ₹4,649.49 crore for March quarter 2020-21 on the back of higher revenues. The consolidated net profit of the company in the year-ago period was ₹1,629.86 crore. Total income in the quarter under review rose to ₹31,687.24 crore from ₹31,330.25 crore in the same period of 2019-20.

Srei EF gets ₹2,000 cr investment proposal

New Delhi: Srei Equipment Finance Ltd (SEFL) on Saturday said it has received investment interest of ₹2,000 crore from US-based Arena Investors LP (Arena)-led consortium. "The strategic coordination committee, chaired by an independent director, will evaluate the said offer and make recommendation of the board to the company," SEFL said in a statement.

UCO Bank looks to raise up to ₹500 crore as tier-II capital

New Delhi: UCO Bank on Saturday said its board will meet next week to consider raising up to ₹500 crore as tier-II capital. The board of directors will consider the proposal for raising tier-II capital of up to ₹500 crore at its meeting scheduled to be held on June 23, 2021. Tier-II capital consists of undisclosed and revaluation reserves, general provisions and loss reserves, hybrid capital instruments, etc.

Govt working on translation tool to bridge language barrier: Meity

New Delhi: The government is working on a technology that can translate in real time various vernacular Indian languages to enable exchange of communications between two persons not speaking the same language, MeitY Secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney said on Saturday. This project, with a timeline of 5-7 years, is being developed using artificial intelligence and modern technologies to end language barriers.

Halep raises doubts over SW19 participation

Simona Halep said on Saturday she was pulling out of next week's Bad Homburg tournament due to a persistent calf problem, putting her defence of her Wimbledon title in doubt. The Romanian, 29, said in a video message on her Twitter account that "my calf is not ready for a competition" at the grasscourt event in Germany.

FLYING SIKH
THE LEGEND LIVES ON

Illustration: Amit Bandre

I have been telling people that doing physical exercise and remaining healthy is very important during this Covid times. I am 91 but I have been doing exercise regularly.

Milkha Singh, after contracting Covid-19

Cremated with full state honours

Milkha Singh was on Saturday cremated with full state honours here, marking the end of an era in which his pioneering accomplishments on the track galvanised a newly-independent India. Milkha, who was 91, was bid a tearful adieu in the presence of his family members and several dignitaries, including sports minister Kiren Rijiju. 'The Flying Sikh', as he was fondly called, died on Friday night due to Covid-19 related complications. His son and ace golfer Jeev Milkha Singh lit the funeral pyre.

We thought we would witness history at 1960 Olympics

Gurbachan Singh Randhawa

What can I say about Milkha that hasn't already been said? When I heard the news, I became extremely sad. It's a black day for Indian sport. He was, inarguably, for that time, one of the best Indian athletes to have emerged. Scratch that, he was probably the best Indian athlete at that time. What set him apart was the way he conducted himself, both on and off the track. On the track, he was a champion. Off it was where he put in the hard yards to become a champion. His training methods, even then, was no compromises. He accepted no short cuts. It's also why he became one of the fastest across 400m in Asia, if not the world.

Speaking about the world, all of us believed that he would win a medal at the Rome Olympics. You could see the pace he was setting in training. We were all there to cheer him on, we didn't want to miss it because we thought we would all be witnessing history. We nearly did because he had started so well. But after the 200m mark, I think he made a slight error in judgment that resulted in him finishing fourth. Even then, that was a national record. He was also gracious enough to congratulate me when I was given the opportunity to lead the contingent at the 1964 Games.

That was another thing that set him apart from the rest, he was always gracious with his time. Even though I was a baby of the team in 1960, he welcomed me. But sadly, we didn't train or camp together. After both of us retired, I travelled to Chandigarh to meet him a few times. After he had caught the virus, I spoke to both his wife and him. It's just extremely sad. But it's also a great time to reminisce about one of the country's greatest champions.

As told to Swaroop Swaminathan
GS Randhawa was part of the 1960 Games

He was phenomenal

Adille Sumariwalla

Only one word can describe him. Phenomenal. I have met him on a few occasions and he has always lent a helping hand. One thing I think he did was put India on the world stage. We were an infant nation and his exploits at the 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games gave us an identity (he won gold over 440 yards). It was also the year I was born.

I think that was his biggest contribution. Against England -- our rulers till recently -- Australia, Canada and others, the competition was fierce but his gold signalled a new dawn. It put us on the world athletics map. We were a new-born country, nobody really cared much. We were under the shadow of the Empire. And he broke us from those shackles. I think that contribution is even bigger that the Rome Olympics.

As told to Indraneel Das
He is the AFI president

Milkha Singh during his heydays

Tributes on social media

We may not have seen you compete, but every time we ran fast as kids, we ran 'like Milkha Singh'. And for me, that will always be the legend you leave behind. Rest in peace, sir.

Sunil Chhetri, India football captain

A huge loss for the sport of athletics today. Rest well #MilkhaSingh ji.

Anju Bobby George, former India athlete

Rest in Peace, Milkha Singh ji. Your demise has left a deep void in every Indian's heart today, but you shall keep inspiring several generations.

Sachin Tendulkar, Indian cricket great

We lost a gem. He will always remain as an inspiration for every Indian,

Neeraj Chopra, India javelin ace

A great motivator

Anju Bobby George

He was a legend, a true legend. And we all know the struggles he had and where he came from and how he achieved all these things. Actually he came very late into athletics but still achieved his maximum. After the 2003 World Championship, he came down to Kerala to my house to congratulate me. And he was really happy and told my mother that you are really lucky to have a girl like this. He was a great motivator.

A towering figure for us

Shiny Wilson

Milkha Singh ji's demise is a great loss for sport. He was a towering figure for all of us and we all used to look up to him for inspiration. His tall deeds motivated us to excel. He had a knack of spotting talent and predicted that I will have a bright future. Milkha ji was the team manager when I was taking part in the World Junior Championships. He gave me a lot of advice that came in handy throughout my career.

India brave elements, survive testing times

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

STANDING outside the crease to negate swing, eschewing tendency to play away from the body, judicious with leaves, meeting the ball beneath the eye-line, confident with their foot movement and maintaining discipline in driving the swinging ball. The Indian batsmen showed all these traits that one needs when you play Test cricket in England. Put in to bat by New Zealand on Day 2 of the WTC final after Day 1 was washed out, India were 146-3 in 64.4 overs when bad light brought an early end to the day's play on Saturday.

India's batting line-up was put to the test by a four-prone seam attack. Add Colin de Grandhomme to the mix, whose medium pacers can be annoying, the Kiwis were never going to give away easy runs. Choosing to bowl first on a Rose Bowl pitch with a bit of grass cover, Tim Southee and Trent Boult didn't start particularly well. Though the pitch was under covers for two days because of rain, it wasn't juicy enough to hurry batsmen. A lot depended on India's openers — Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill — and the duo ensured the Kiwis didn't get an opening. When the Black Caps erred by pitching too full, they brought out the straight drives. The slightest of width on offer was cut with tailor's precision. Wrists came into play when anything was pitched around middle-leg. Short balls were treated with disdain.

To make most of the conditions, the Kiwi attack even reduced pace by a couple of yards to find movement. When Gill advanced down to counter swing, Kyle Jamieson's short ball hit the grille. Rohit and Gill's opening stand ended at 62 and both were back before lunch. Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara ensured there wasn't any more wobble in the first session. They didn't bother about run-rate, well aware occupying the crease would fetch them runs later. Though Pujara was out for 8, Ajinkya Rahane joined the captain to go about the hard job.

Brief scores: India 146/3 in 64.4 ovs (Kohli 44 n.o, Rohit 34, Jamieson 1/14).

Joachim Löw's boys shock Portugal in thrilling Group F tie to keep last 16 hopes alive, Griezmann rescues France against Hungary

GERMAN FOUR-CE

AFP @ Munich

GERMANY defeated Portugal 4-2 in Group F at Euro 2020 on Saturday to revive their hopes of reaching the last 16 and leave the reigning champions in danger of crashing out.

Cristiano Ronaldo put Portugal ahead in Munich but own goals from Ruben Dias and Raphael Guerreiro gave Germany the advantage before Kai Havertz and Robin Gosens struck in the second half to make it 4-1. Diogo Jota pulled a goal back for Portugal, who are level on three points with Germany and a point behind leaders France. Portugal face France in their final game while Germany take on bottom side Hungary.

France held

Antoine Griezmann salvaged a 1-1 draw for France against Hungary in Budapest as the world champions missed the chance to clinch a place in the last 16. Attila Fiola gave the hosts a shock lead in first-half stoppage time. But Griezmann, the Golden Boot winner at Euro 2016, equalised on 66 minutes.

Germany's Robin Gosens (L) scores the team's fourth goal against Portugal and Germany at Allianz Arena in Munich on Saturday | AFP

WHERE THEY STAND...

GROUP D

TEAM	M	W	D	L	GD	P
CZ	2	1	1	0	2	4
ENG	2	1	1	0	1	4
CRO	2	0	1	1	-1	1
SCT	2	0	1	1	-2	1

GROUP F

TEAM	M	W	D	L	GD	P
FRA	2	1	1	0	1	4
GER	2	1	0	1	1	3
POR	2	1	0	1	1	3
HUN	2	0	1	1	-3	1

RESULTS | Friday: England **0-0** Scotland; **Saturday:** Hungary **1-1** France, Portugal **2-4** Germany | UPDATED TILL PORTUGAL VS GERMANY MATCH

NOW OR NEVER

Group A's denouement promises to be fascinating with two teams still with a genuine chance of qualifying to the last 16. A look at the permutations for the group's final matches on Sunday... Live on Sony Pictures Networks

ITALY vs WALES | Rome | 9.30 pm

Italy have advanced but if they win here, they will likely face Ukraine. If they lose and advance as group runners up, they could face one of Russia or Finland in the Round of 16. As far as Wales are concerned, they will look to at least get a point that will confirm qualification more or less. As far as the match goes, Italy are favourites but Wales showed what they are capable of against Turkey.

Key players: Ciro Immobile (Italy), Aaron Ramsey (Wales)

SWITZERLAND vs TURKEY | Baku | 9.30 pm

Turkey are yet to score and are virtually out. A win for Switzerland could set them up nicely considering every team that finished on four points in the group stages qualified to the knockouts in 2016. Turkey will have to score a hatful of goals to even have a small chance of getting through as one of the four best third placed teams so the Swiss could pick them off on the counter.

Key players: Burak Yilmaz (Turkey), Xherdan Shaqiri (Switzerland)

RODRIGUEZ STRIKE HELPS ARGENTINA BEAT URUGUAY

BRASÍLIA: Guido Rodriguez scored the only goal of the game as Argentina edged past fierce local rivals Uruguay in a disappointing Copa America clash on Friday. The victory sent Argentina joint top of Group A with Chile on four points while Uruguay remain without a point. These two sides have played each other more times than any other local rivals and played the first ever international match to be held outside the United Kingdom.

Argentina's Guido Rodriguez celebrates after scoring against Uruguay | AP

EXPRESS READ

Srihari, Sajan win gold in Belgrade

BENGALURU: India swimmers Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash won gold on Day 1 of the Belgrade Trophy in the 100m backstroke and 200 butterfly respectively, but it was not good enough to match the A-mark Olympic Qualifying Time. Srihari's won with a timing of 54.45s while Sajan's timing read 1:56.96s.

IOA unhappy with new Oly guidelines

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

THE Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has issued a firmly worded letter to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) following Tokyo Olympic Organising Committee's new rules with respect to quarantine after arriving in Tokyo. After the organisers said that athletes travelling from India, and 10 other countries including UK, would have to maintain compulsory 'physical distancing' after landing in Tokyo for three days, apart from taking everyday Covid tests for a week before departure, the IOA called these new guidelines 'highly unfair for Indian athletes who have worked hard for five years to be discriminated against just five days before the Olympics'.

The one big problem the new guidelines has created is chaos and confusion in equal measure. All of these are elite athletes, with food, dietary supplements and training highly regimented. Asking them to stay inside a room for three days could be impractical. Even if the new guidelines doesn't mention the word quarantine anywhere, it's essentially what this is. Athletes cannot hope to avoid competitors or delegates from other countries even if they try to do so. Also, the dining hall as well as training venues is shared by competitors of all nations. Reading through the new rules, the organisers are almost suggesting that athletes from the 11 nations may have to train in the dead of night. It's a point the IOA stress in the letter (signed by president Narinder Batra and secretary Rajeev Mehta), addressed to Toru Kobayashi, director of NOC relations and services team. "The arrangement is likely to have an adverse impact on their diet plan," the letter states. "Where and when will athletes have breakfast, lunch and dinner during these three days, since all athletes from other countries will be having their meals in the dining hall of the Games Village? If food packets are being delivered, who will plan their proteins/minerals/calories requirements and food preferences etc.

"The other worries are about practice and training, where and when will athletes practice as practice/training areas are never empty."

The IOA also wants to know why the competitors have to undergo a sort of soft quarantine even after taking seven Covid tests in as many days as well as fully vaccinating their athletes. "We understand and respect host country's decision to keep their country safe and secure, the athletes going out of India will be double vaccinated, have RTPCR test done every day for seven days before leaving, then why make athletes suffer..."

Could the rules be changed again between now and June 18, the date when the first batch of Indian athletes are expected to fly out? It doesn't look likely but high-level discussions are on, including with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Sneh helps India earn draw

ENS @ Chennai

India all-rounder Sneh Rana – who was one of five debutants for the visitors -- produced a match-saving knock on the fourth and final day to help the visitors play out a draw against England women in Bristol on Saturday. Wicketkeeper and fellow debutant Taniya Bhatia offered good support to Sneh. At the time of going to print, India were 327/8 in 119 overs.

When they came together, India were tottering at 240/8 with a slender lead of 65 runs and had almost 43 overs to negotiate. Sneh, who also took four wickets in the first innings, played a leading role in the partnership and guided Taniya through much of her innings. **Brief scores (Day 4):** England women 396/9 dec. India women 231 & 327/8 in 119 overs.

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A huge diamond weighing more than 1,000 carats, which could be the third-largest mined in history, has been discovered in the southern African country of Botswana. The high-quality gemstone weighing 1,098.3 carats was unearthed earlier this month in the Jwaneng mine owned by Debswana, the mining company jointly owned by the Botswanan government and the De Beers Group.

DNA link between red meat & cancer detailed in study

Until now, the biological link between eating such foods and cancer wasn't quite clear

HEALTH

WASHINGTON: Eating less red meat is standard medical advice for preventing colorectal cancer, but the way it causes cells to mutate has remained unclear, and not all experts were convinced there was a strong link.

A new paper in *Cancer Discovery* has now identified specific patterns of DNA damage triggered by diets rich in red meat -- further implicating the food as a carcinogen while heralding the possibility of detecting the cancer early and designing new treatments.

Prior research establishing the connection was mainly epidemiologic, meaning that people who developed the condition were surveyed on their eating habits, and researchers spotted associations with colorectal cancer incidence.

But a lack of clarity around the biology meant that the case wasn't quite slam dunk, and in 2019, one team of researchers made waves when they declared they only had a "low" degree of certainty that reducing consumption would prevent cancer deaths.

"When we say red meat is carcinogenic, and that it impacts incidence of cancer, there has to be some plausible way by which it does it," Dana-Farber Cancer Institute oncologist Marios Giannakis, who led the new study, said.

After all, scientists discovered long ago which chemicals in cigarette smoke are to blame for cancer, and how certain bands of UV light penetrate the skin and trigger mutations in genes that control how cells grow and divide.

To address the knowledge gap, Giannakis and his colleagues sequenced DNA data from 900 patients with colorectal cancer, who were drawn from a much larger group of 2.6 lakh medics participating in a years-long studies that included lifestyle surveys.

The strength of this approach is that the people documenting their diet had no way of knowing of their future cancer diagnosis, rather than asking people to recall their eating habits after they became ill.

The analysis revealed a distinct mutational signature -- a pattern that had never before been identified but was indicative of a type of DNA damage called "alkylation."

Not all cells that contain these mutations will necessarily become cancerous, and the signature was present in some healthy colon samples too.

The mutation signature was significantly associated with intake of red meat, both processed and unprocessed, prior to the patient's diagnosis of cancer, but not with the intake of poultry, fish or other lifetsyle factors that were examined.

"With red meat, there are chemicals that can cause alkylation," explained Giannakis. The specific compounds are nitroso compounds that can be made from heme, which is plentiful in red meat, as well as nitrates, often found in processed meat.

Representative illustration | Express

EXFILE • BIOLOGY

How did humans become so thirsty?

Nothing is a bigger crisis for society than water shortage, which is more keenly felt in the southern and western parts of India. Although humans need to drink less than water than, say, a horse or a cow, we can't adapt to water scarcity or long periods of dehydration the way some animals can. Here's an explanation on how humans evolved to become utterly reliant on water, based on the work of biologist Asher Rosinger

50%

20%-50% of our water intake can come from the foods we eat

What happens when we go without water?

Our body and mind weaken and after a few water-less days, we die. Ironically, when we have adequate water around us, we forget its importance and the possibilities of future scarcity

STORY BEGINS WITH OUR ORIGINS IN AFRICA

1. Three million to two million years ago, Africa's climate changed to become more dry. This was the time when humanity's ancestors, hominins, evolved, Rosinger writes in *Scientific American*

2. The early hominin genus *Australopithecus*, who were short and stocky, evolved to become our taller and slimmer genus, homo. Such anatomical changes reduced exposure to solar radiation while upping the body's ability to release heat, allowing for more water efficiency

3. The landscape transformed, too; climate change converted forests to grasslands, requiring those early hominins to adapt to moving quickly in open environment, which made bodies lose hair and develop more sweat glands. This let our ancestors release excess heat and maintain the right body temperature while moving (See Sweat Glands)

[Source: Research by Nina Jablonski of Pennsylvania State University and Peter Wheeler of Liverpool John Moores University in England]

4. This optimal cooling system gave humanity a big edge over animals. Early humans could run for longer distances to bring down prey

(One example here is dogs; no matter how powerful and agile our faithful companions are, their inferior sweating abilities mean they can't run as far as humans)

5. Our enhanced ability to sweat and cool down our body has a big downside. The risk of dehydration increases, and humans have a low threshold before dehydration causes them to collapse

10%

Research research shows that Homo erectus likely hunted for about 5 hours before losing 10% of its body mass, causing severe dehydration symptoms

20%-40%

This compares to a 20%-40% body-mass-loss threshold for animals such as camels and goats, which also have body parts that can store water against future scarcity

RESULT OF EVOLUTION

Human bodies don't have other means of surviving scarcity. The desert pocket mouse can go without water for months, due in part to its kidneys' ability to concentrate urine

While humans can also do this to some extent, we cannot go long without freshwater. Nor can our bodies store water, as our urine production increases in proportion to our water intake

SWEAT GLANDS

3 TYPES

- **Mammals have three kinds of sweat glands:** Apocrine, sebaceous and eccrine. Humans have more eccrine glands — which use the water electrolytes inside cells to generate sweat — than any other primate
- Recent research by Daniel Aldea et al found that repeated mutations of the gene *Engrailed 1* may have created this abundant number of sweat glands. Evaporation of sweat is essential as it cools the skin as well as the blood vessels, thereby lowering the body's core temperature

Our daily water requirements

Recommendations for our daily intake range from 3.7 litres for men and 2.7 for women to 2.5 litres for men and 2.0 for women

Afghanistan running out of O_2 cylinders

HEALTH

KABUL: Afghanistan's is racing to ramp up supplies of oxygen as a deadly third surge of Covid-19 worsens, a senior health official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The government is installing oxygen supply plants in 10 provinces where the increase in COVID cases in some areas is hovering around 65%, health ministry spokesman Ghulam Dasigi Nazary said.

By WHO recommendations, anything higher than 5% shows officials aren't testing widely enough, allowing the virus to spread unchecked. Afghanistan carries out barely 4,000 tests a day and often much less.

Afghanistan's 24-hour infection count has also continued its upward climb from 1,500 at the end of May when the health ministry was already calling the surge "a crisis," to more than 2,300 this week. Since the pandemic outbreak, Afghanistan is reporting 101,906 positive cases and 4,122 deaths. But those figures are likely a huge undercount, registering only deaths in hospitals — not the far greater numbers who die at home. Afghanistan has even run out of empty cylinders.

Earth's energy imbalance doubles in 14 yrs

CLIMATE

RAISING alarm over human-caused climate change, NASA-led research has revealed that the amount of heat trapped by Earth's land, ocean and atmosphere has doubled over the course of only 14 years.

Scientists at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the US found that Earth's energy imbalance approximately doubled during the 14-year period from 2005 to 2019. "A positive energy imbalance means the Earth system is gaining energy, causing the planet to heat up," a statement read.

To reach this conclusion, scientists compared data from two independent measurements -- NASA's Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System and data from a global array of ocean floats called Argo that enable an accurate estimate of the rate at which the world's oceans are heating up.

SUSTAINABLE REUSE

Zainuddin, a teacher, makes furniture with recycled plastic bottles at his workshop in Banda Aceh, Indonesia | AFP

Brazil still debating HCQ as toll nears 5L

SCIENCE SPIN

BRASILIA: As Brazil hurtles toward an official Covid-19 death toll of 5,00,000 — second-highest in the world — science is on trial inside the country and the truth is up for grabs.

With the milestone likely to be reached this weekend, Brazil's Senate is publicly investigating how the toll got so high, focusing on why President Jair Bolsonaro's far-right government ignored opportunities to buy vaccines for months while it relentlessly pushed hydroxychloroquine, the malaria drug that rigorous studies have shown to be ineffective in treating Covid-19.

The nationally televised hearings have contained enough scientific claims, counterclaims and outright falsehoods to keep fact-checkers busy. The Senate hearings that began in April have turned into a forum for dueling testimony from doctors who are either pro- or anti-hydroxychloroquine, creating what some experts fear is a misimpression that the drug's usefulness is still an open question in the international scientific community. The drug is also being celebrated across social media.

FACT OF THE MATTER

'Fossil' fish can live for 100 yrs

SCIENCE

The coelacanth — a giant weird fish still around from dinosaur times — can live for 100 years, a new study found. These slow-moving, people-sized fish of the deep, nicknamed a "living fossil," are the opposite of the live fast, die young mantra. These nocturnal fish grow at an achingly slow pace. Females don't hit sexual maturity until their late 50s, the study said, while male coelacanths are sexually mature at 40 to 69 years. And maybe strangest of all, researchers figure pregnancy in the fish lasts about five years. Coelacanths, which have been around for 400 million years, were thought extinct till they were found alive in 1938 off S Africa.

AI ship hit by new glitch

TECHNOLOGY

The Mayflower had a few false starts before its trailblazing sea voyage to America more than 400 years ago. Now, its artificial intelligence-powered namesake is having some glitches of its own. A sleek robotic trimaran retracing the 1620 journey of the famous English vessel had to turn back Friday to fix a problem. Nonprofit organization ProMare, which worked with IBM to build the autonomous ship, said it made the decision to return to base "to investigate and fix a minor mechanical issue" but hopes to be back on the trans-Atlantic trip soon. With no humans on board the ship, there's no one to make repairs while it's at sea.

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Vienna looks to transform city planning with suburb designed by, and for, women

ARCHITECTURE

VIENNA: Women may hold up half the sky, but when it comes to designing the public spaces and buildings in which they live, their voices have too often been silenced.

A visionary project in Vienna aims to turn that notion on its head, with a suburb in the Austrian capital designed by and for women.

It exemplifies how the city is trying to make urban space more inclusive, from brighter lights to broader pavements that make room for push-chairs, and how female architects and designers are driving the change.

The new Seestadt district has been in the throes of development since 2012, a sprawling building site on the city's eastern edge that is projected to expand from its 8,300 population now to 20,000 by 2030.

In most countries, the percentage of women in the decision-making process is between five and 10 per cent at most

Sabina Riss, an architect and university researcher

Giant letters on hoardings around some of the construction sites proclaim "Women build the city".

By turning the focus on the role of women in urban design, Vienna is helping to highlight the still dominant role men play in shaping the built environment.

The developers and bankers who often make the crucial decisions when it comes to urban development are still overwhelmingly male, says Sabina Riss, an architect and university researcher who studies the relationship between gender and urban planning.

According to architect Carla Lo, Vienna's planning policies have been refreshed since Kathrin Gaal in 2018 became the first woman to head the city's powerful housing department, overseeing an annual budget of more than a billion euros.

"Since she has been there, suddenly the particular needs of single mothers are considered when tenders go out for projects," Lo says.

Having given her input to the development of Seestadt, Gaal says she wants the exhibition there to encourage other women "to make their visions reality".

The desire to cater to women's needs can be seen in many facets of Vienna's modern city planning, from the brighter street lights and more exits at sports venues to help women feel safer, to provision of better toilet facilities.

In residential design too there are such innovations as common rooms shared between several flats to keep prices low and encourage families to collaborate for childcare.

A general view of an apartment building at Vienna's Seestadt suburb | AFP